THE TIMES

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Human tide abandons Kosovo

- Serbs purge villages
- 4,000 quit every hour
- More atrocities reported



HEKTOR PUSTINA/AP

Fleeing for their lives: refugees arrive at the northern Albanian town of Kukes. As conditions worsened inside Kosovo, Nato said it was "moving heaven and earth to try to get in there and address the problem"

BY MICHAEL EVANS AND CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

REFUGEES were pouring out of Kosovo at the rate of 4,000 an hour yesterday. They were even walking through minefields in their desperation to reach sanctuary in Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Montenegro. All had grim tales to tell of horrific assaults by Serb troops and paramilitary police.

President Clinton and Tony Blair vowed to carry on bombing in the face of the escalating violence. The Prime Minister said that now was the time to stand firm against the brutality, and he insisted that the Nato air campaign against the Serbs must intensify. President Milosevic should pay "a heavy price" for the atrocities, he said.

The greatest concern yesterday was caused by the flow of refugees heading for Albania. It became so overwhelming that the border crossing at Morina, about 150 miles from Tirana, was closed for a time.

One report said that 150,000 refugees were heading for the borders. The Governments of Macedonia and Albania appealed for international help.

A spokeswoman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said that many of the "deeply traumatised" refugees had spoken of being forced from their homes at gunpoint by Serb forces, with no time even to gather a few belongings. She said Albania was approaching "saturation point".

Emma Bonino, the EU Commissioner for humanitarian affairs, said she would visit the region tomorrow to draw up plans for assisting Macedonia and Albania.

In response to the continuing reports of atrocities, including confirmation that two "murder squads" were operating in Kosovo under Yugoslav Army and police command, Mr Milosevic and his key military commanders were given warning that they would be held personally responsible for the war crimes being committed in Kosovo, and brought to justice before the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague.

Those named included Lieutenant-Colonel General Pavkovic, commander of the 3rd Army which is engaged in the operations in Kosovo; Major General Lazerevic, who is commander of 52 Corps, also in Kosovo; and Radomir Markovic, head of Yugoslavia's internal security organisation.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said that none of the soldiers and police killing civilians in Kosovo would be able to plead that they were "just obeying orders". Mr Cook said: "Anyone who carries out atrocities against the civilian population, anyone who gives orders to them to carry it out, or is complicit in those orders being given, and anyone who fails to prevent such orders being carried out, anyone in any of these categories is liable to face indictment before the International War Crimes Tribunal."

As Nato began its sixth day of bombing, targeting Serb troops and tanks in Kosovo, there were reports that ethnic Albanian intellectuals were being executed. Nato named one prominent figure thought to have been murdered as Fehmi Agani, one of the negotiators at the Rambouillet peace talks. However, there were doubts about the accuracy of this report. Another victim was named as Baton Haxhui, editor of the main Albanian language daily, *Koha Ditore*.

As Nato claimed the new phase of the airstrikes was beginning to have a marked effect on the Serb forces, the inhabitants of Pristina, the capital of Kosovo, emerged shell-shocked from Sunday night's heavy bombing. Numerous missiles hit the centre of the town and the Serb police headquarters was destroyed.

Nato said "colossal damage" was being inflicted on the infrastructure of the Serb army and police. A Nato official said the airstrikes represented "a methodical, systematic and progressive" campaign to strip the Serb leadership bare of their military capabilities. Jamie Shea, the Nato spokesman, said: "We are going to progressively tighten the noose around the Serb war machine in Kosovo."

Nato officials said that allied aircraft had targeted the Yugoslav Army's 243rd Combat Group at Donja Semanja, in western Kosovo.

Nato insisted that the air campaign would be sufficient to force Mr Milosevic to call off his offensive, which was aimed at "ethnically re-engineering" the make-up of Kosovo. Air Commodore David Wilby, a Nato military spokesman, said: "Every military person in the Nato chain is well aware of the urgency and we are moving heaven and earth to try to get in there and address the problem as quickly as we can."

Ground attack operations were now continuing around the clock, he said. RAF Harrier GR7s launched successful raids on ammunition storage sites on Sunday night and all returned safely.

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Soldiers rolled grenades yelling 'this is for Blair'

Sam Kiley hears a tale of refugee horror in Kukes, northern Albania

HER face reddened with weeping, her feet raw from the 20-mile forced march across mountains, Shipresa finally broke down when she reached the grim sanctuary of her new home in northern Albania.

Her ordeal sounded like some terrible medieval tale of rape, pillage and brutal tribalism. In reality it happened over the weekend, and at one point she had to dodge Serb soldiers rolling grenades into the refugee crowds yelling: "This is for Clinton" and "This is for Blair".

Shipresa and her family fled with only the clothes on their backs, forced, like tens of thousands of fellow ethnic Albanians from their ancient homeland in Kosovo.

Their nightmare began when her family was denounced as terrorist members of the Kosovo Liberation Army by a neighbour, a Serb who enthusiastically joined in the ghastly ethnic cleansing of their home town and exposed the hiding place where she and 40 family members were concealed.

"The army and police came to the house many times and could not find us. Then our own neighbour showed them where we were hiding. We thought we all be killed," said Shipresa, a 24-year-old medical student from Peja.

The 15 men in her group, mostly well educated ethnic Albanians, were at first separated from their families. Then, for the Serbs, the fun started.

"They told us they were going to kill all the men. We cried and begged then not to, we fell to our knees, we offered them money. They all just laughed and shoved their guns in our faces," she said through the tears streaming down her face.

The soldiers did not shoot. They just ordered the family to get out of the country and get lost to Albania, she said.

Like many of the other 70,000 Albanians driven from their homes in the biggest humanitarian catastrophe since the end of the Second World War, Shipresa and her family were then forced to walk the 20 miles to the border with Albania, leaving behind centuries of Muslim heritage, their professional lives and in her family's case, their comfortable home.

Their route meant running a gauntlet of Serb checkpoints. At each one, she said, they were threatened, what meagre goods they carried were taken from them. That was the easy part.

The real fear was of summary execution, or worse. They told of how they saw young men have their limbs hacked off by laughing and jeering policemen, who then shot them in front of their loves ones at the roadblocks, a brutal reminder of the tactics of Hutu extremists in Rwanda.

"People were mad with blood. They seemed clinically insane, psychotic," Shipresa said. The men in her family joined the trek to Albania and were inexplicably spared the initial threats of murder.

But en route, as they tramped alongside tens of thousands of others, they fell victim of a deadly game played by the Serbs with live grenades. Young men, some of whom they knew and had grown up with, yelled: "This is for Clinton" and "This is for Blair", and then rolled gren-

Continued on Page 3, col 1



"You'd be upset too — the tooth fairy left a euro under her pillow"

Euro falls to a new low

The euro tumbled to new lows as investors feared for the stability of the new currency amid the intensifying Balkans conflict and on further signs of weaknesses in European economies..............Page 25

Graves revealed

The IRA may announce the locations of unmarked graves of three people killed during the 1970s. Evidence procured in recovering remains will not be used in prosecutions..Page 10

Alliance faced with a race against time



Michael Evans reports on the problems faced by Western commanders as they try to stem the bloodshed in Kosovo

NATO is now engaged in a race against time to prevent President Milosevic from completing his wholesale "ethnic cleansing" programme aimed at driving the Albanian population out of Kosovo.

With a further 150,000 Albanians expelled from their homes at gunpoint and heading for the Albanian border, Nato's military commanders are struggling to keep up with the political demands imposed on them, which are to stem, not escalate, the humanitarian disaster.

Although the bombing has intensified and the main targeting focus has switched to Serb troops and special police units operating in Kosovo, the momentum of the ethnic cleansing is far greater than the damage inflicted on the Serbs by Nato's bombers.

Yesterday Nato officials said that the second phase in Operation Allied Force — extending the targets to Serb forces in Kosovo — was beginning to have an effect. But despite the armada of well over 400 allied aircraft now dedicated to the campaign, the progress was slow. Bad weather, the fear of causing civilian casualties and the need to select individual targets, not bomb indiscriminately, had restricted Nato.

However, as allied bombers work their way through the comprehensive list of targets drawn up by military intelligence, Serb shock troops are continuing their slaughter, untroubled by any need for precision or selective action. They are following the strategy so successfully adopted by the Bosnian Serbs in the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which is to surround a village with tanks and artillery, pound the inhabitants with shells and then send in the paramilitary heavies to finish off the job.

As word spreads from village to village of the atrocities being committed, the ethnic cleansing becomes easy, because families in the path of the advancing Serbs evacuate their homes.

This sense of desperation will have been exacerbated with the confirmation that two notorious murder squads are now operating in Kosovo, under the command of the Yugoslav Army and the Serb special police. They are the Tigers, led by the indicted war criminal, Arkan, and now also the so-called Vucjak Wolves. Intelligence sources said yesterday that about 300 villages in Kosovo had now been destroyed or severely damaged, and their 350,000 inhabitants driven away.

The Serbs — now totalling 27,000 troops, 16,500 police and 300 tanks in Kosovo — had also created a *cordon sanitaire* in the western corner of Kosovo up to the border with Albania from which virtually the entire ethnic Albanian population has been expelled.

After six days of bombing, which has succeeded in damaging or destroying some of the Serb air defences, ammunition depots, command centres and army bases, Mr Milosevic is clearly gambling on the fact that, despite the onslaught from the air, enough of his forces in Kosovo will survive to fulfil his vision of an apartheid state in Europe.

Anxious to clear up the Kosovo problem before the 50th anniversary of the alliance at the end of next month, Nato governments must already be contemplating the nightmare scenario of having to deploy ground forces, despite daily denials.

Yet even if the 12,000 Nato troops in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were to be boosted to invasion levels — at least 100,000 — it would probably be too late.

It would take at least two months to assemble a force of such size, with the huge logistics involved, and by then the ethnic cleansing programme in Kosovo could have been completed.

So far, it is calculated that 500,000 ethnic Albanians — more than 25 per cent of the Albanian population in Kosovo — have been driven from their homes since the war began a year ago.

Restricted to airstrikes alone, Nato's military commanders can only hope that the accuracy and devastating firepower of the bombers making their runs over Yugoslavia will force the Serbs to end their repression.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday maintained the Government's no-troops strategy. "Ground troops are not some kind of magical shortcut, they would still take a long time before they could be put in position or before they could take advantage of the disruption we have caused to Milosevic's military. But we have no intention and no plans to commit ground troops," he said.

In the race between Nato and Belgrade, the contest, at least for the moment, will be between two unequal sides: the massive superiority of Nato in the air and the continuing supremacy of the Serb forces on the ground.

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TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR NATO

Massacres
Areas of present operations
Refugees
Kosovo Mitrovica
Lapastica
Srbica/Lausa/Kilsa
Donje Prekaze/St Poljance
Podujevo
Lodja
Drenica
Cicavica Hills
All exits sealed off by Serb forces
Pec
Donje Obrinje
Pristina
Prilep/Rznic
Likosane
K O S O V O
Junik
Malisevo
Pagarusa
Racak
150,000 refugees heading for border
ALBANIA
Morina
Pastrik border area
Kukes
MACEDONIA (Former Yugoslav Republic of)

- 70,000 refugees have arrived in northeastern Albania since Saturday.
- 10,000 refugees have arrived in Rozaje, in eastern Montenegro, since Saturday.
- Total number of ethnic Albanians displaced since the civil war began a year ago is 500,000 – more than 25 per cent of the population.
- Total number of villages destroyed: 300. Inhabitants driven out from these vilages: 350,000.
- 20,000 refugees already in Montenegro.
- Serb special forces and Interior Ministry police have sealed off exits from Pristina (population, 200,000),
- Pec is virtually emptied of its 60,000 people.
- 20,000 more refugees waiting to get into Albania at border towns of Kukes and Morina
- 150,000 more refugees heading for the Albanian border.

UN calls for aid to save refugees

By Michael Binyon
Diplomatic Editor

AS COLUMNS of tired men, women and children streamed across Kosovo's borders, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was yesterday drawing up contingency plans to feed and house the 60,000 who have crossed into Macedonia and Albania.

Nato was also holding urgent consultations to co-ordinate emergency aid and prevent the exodus overwhelming Kosovo's neighbours. Western governments are preparing to fly in food, shelter and medical supplies, and humanitarian agencies are to put their provisions and expertise at the disposal of UNHCR, which is co-ordinating the response.

Rudolf Scharping, the German Defence Minister, said yesterday that Bonn was co-ordinating a European Union initiative to help Kosovo refugees. He said his ministry was taking the aid initiative with the other 14 EU member states. Germany currently holds the EU's six-month rotating presidency.

Only the Red Cross and Médecins sans Frontières are already present in force in Albania and Macedonia, but other aid workers are ready to move in. Sadako Ogata, the UN High Commissioner, has launched an appeal to the international community. "These people have nothing, so we have to set up a rather large operation in several places, all through the neigbouring countries of Kosovo," she told the BBC *Today* programme.

No government has yet announced that it is to open its doors to the displaced Kosovo Albanians. As it did during the height of the Bosnian war, Britain is likely to operate an extremely restrictive policy, making it hard for any Albanians to reach safety in this country.

Former peacenik Cook warms to heat of battle

The Foreign Secretary tells **Peter Riddell** that his present fighting talk is not at odds with his past

Robin Cook made his name in politics on the CND, anti-war and disarmament wing of the Labour Party. Yet there he stood yesterday next to Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the Defence Staff, talking about the state of the air campaign. Mr Cook sees "no contradiction at all" in his past and current stands.

Talking to him yesterday in the Foreign Secretary's office, Mr Cook emphasised his commitment to seeing through the military action. "I feel genuinely angry with what I see happening. My position now fits consistently with all the positions I have taken throughout my political career.

"I have always been opposed to repression and the indiscriminate use of military violence. I have always supported international solidarity against repression. I opposed apartheid in South Africa, so I cannot accept apartheid through ethnic cleansing in Europe." He said that "many others of my political generation take that perspective".

Mr Cook keeps in close contact with Joschka Fischer, the German Foreign Minister with a similar background and outlook, flying to Berlin on Sunday evening for the third time in a week to have talks with him. He has also been in daily touch with Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State.

The international community, he argued, had not only "the right but also the obligation" to oppose aggression which resulted in a humanitarian catastrophe.

But why is Kosovo different from Rwanda, Chechnya and other places where there has been repression? For Mr Cook, the key distinction is that Kosovo is in Europe. Following Nato's enlargement earlier this month, there is now a border, in Hungary, between the alliance and Serbia, so "the major conflict just over the fence" is of direct concern to us.

"The whole credibility of Nato is at stake — not just loss of face after earlier commitments, but confidence in our own security. It is in the national British interest to maintain Nato's credibility."

Nato action was justified by "the humanitarian need to halt ethnic cleansing within Europe and by making sure the alliance had the resolve to see it through".

The usual cool Mr Cook has no doubts and is clearly "very committed". Over the past year, "I have tried as hard as anyone else to find a negotiated way forward". He has met several of the Serbian leaders, including President Milosevic twice. "I have tried to talk reason," but at the time of the Paris negotiations Mr Milosevic was preparing a spring offensive which started before the beginning of the Nato bombing last Wednesday. "The only thing that Milosevic respects is force."

The Foreign Secretary also highlighted warnings to field commanders that they would be held to account for any war crimes. This was not, he claimed, an empty threat since half of those indicted in Bosnia were under arrest or awaiting trial.

The military campaign would continue until aggression was halted. But what if Serbian forces succeed in forcing the Albanian Kosovans out of their territory?

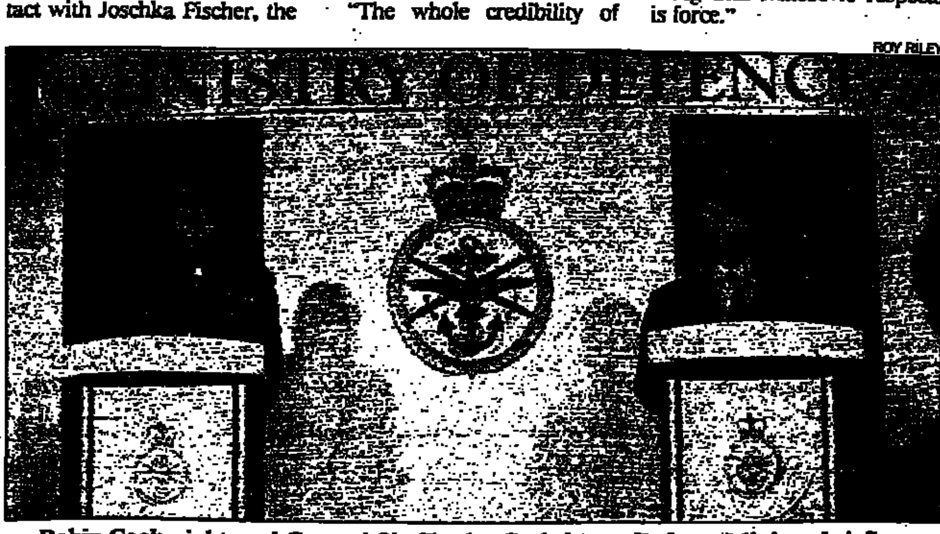
Mr Cook said such a situation would be unacceptable. An alliance objective would be the return of the refugees to their homes. He said suggestions of a United Nations protectorate were doubtful legally. But the long-term answer might be underwritten by an international military presence after a ceasefire on the ground.

Mr Cook acknowledged that there has been increased urgency in the campaign in response to Serbian attacks and the growing flow of refugees into neighbouring countries.

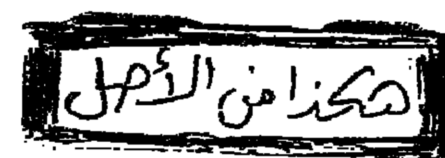
Drawing a parallel with the seven-week air campaign in the Gulf war of 1991, Mr Cook defended the reliance on air operations in the face of increasing calls to commit ground troops. He stressed that there were no plans to use ground forces, but argued that they would anyway be irrelevant now. Air attacks were the right way to curb Serbian aggression at this stage.

He said the Serbian "thugs" only attacked Kosovan villages after they had been surrounded by army tanks and heavy equipment. Nato aircraft would target such operations and thus be able to limit "ethnic cleansing" without the commitment of ground troops.

ROY RILEY

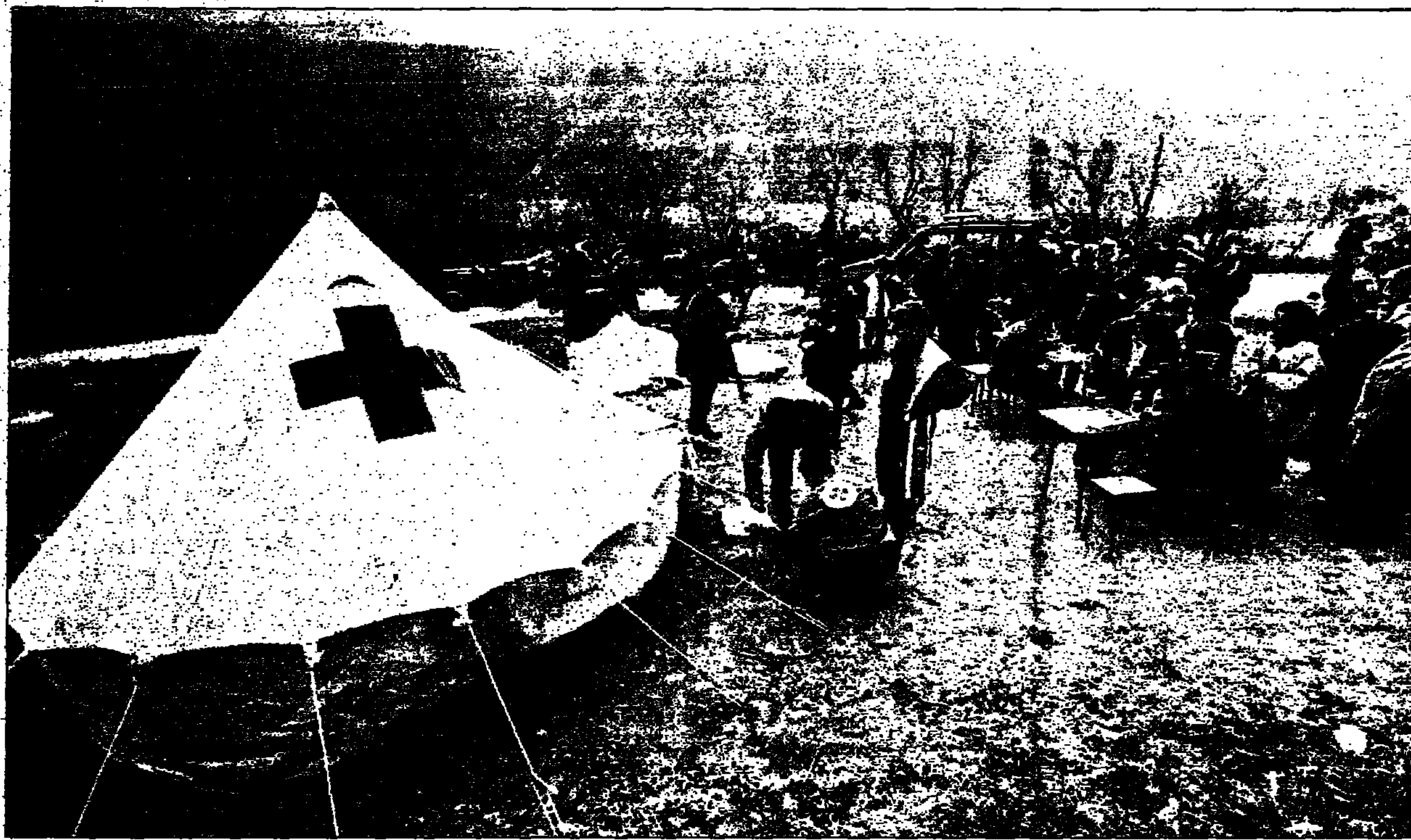


Robin Cook, right, and General Sir Charles Guthrie at a Defence Ministry briefing



Officials impotent as refugees flood in

Victims' exodus into Macedonia caught Nato's soldiers by surprise. **Daniel McGrory** and photographer **Simon Walker** witnessed what happened



Red Cross workers and local people try to cope with the stream of victims struggling to reach safety. Macedonian villagers urged Nato soldiers to help the exhausted refugees

YARD by yard, the procession of tractors groped their way along the mountain's edge to reach some of the thousands trying to escape Kosovo on foot through the mud and snow yesterday.

Some youngsters had collapsed in a heap, unable to walk the last mile to the border with Macedonia. Their parents did not have the strength to carry them.

In the valley below, aid workers stood around in huddles looking startled as the slow, bedraggled column of 5,000 refugees descended on Blace. Villagers had to use their own vehicles to rescue the latest victims of Kosovo's war. They took bread and blankets to families, some of whom had been walking for two days.

Macedonian soldiers looked out from their empty army trucks as Blace's farmers tried to squeeze as many as they could on to their tractors and trailers. Leaders from the Albanian community in Skopje commandeered every available van and lorry they could and begged taxi drivers to go to the border to ferry the new arrivals to the capital, where already overcrowded families were being asked to shelter them.

One local leader asked indignantly: "How come Nato tells us it has eyes in the sky with its surveillance planes so it can see every move the Serbs are making and yet it can't spot a line of people, cars and buses this big heading for 70 kilometres and more towards a border?"

The authorities and aid groups were unprepared for yesterday's influx, and appeared helpless. There is growing consternation at the seeming inability of the United Nations and others to cope, even though the numbers of refugees has grown since airstrikes began. There are still no tents, no medical facilities or doctors, and no organised transport at the border crossing despite the crush of humanity pouring through.

By last night, an estimated 20,000 refugees were in Macedonia, which is the limit the Government says it will take, though those arriving yesterday said there were at least as many again walking behind them, trying to evade the Serbs.

One UN official at the scene admitted: "We are unprepared, and the international community had better wake up quick, or we are in for a humanitarian catastrophe. The numbers are getting out of hand."

There are also calls for the 10,800-strong Nato force waiting in Macedonia to use its manpower and vehicles to help to transport the refugees away from the border. One Nato officer said last night: "It is something I'm sure we should be looking at."

Ferez Saliu, who helps to run an Albanian charity in Skopje, said: "If Nato won't fight to stop the Serbs evicting our people, then surely it cannot turn its back on women and children who have no one left to help them."

Scores of families from Skopje waited for hours at the border for relatives to appear through the blanket of morning mist, knowing the exodus was close by, and yet government officials and aid organisers were caught by suprise.

Overwhelmed by the numbers, border guards simply waved everyone through, ignoring the fact that most refugees had had passports and identity papers confiscated before they were ordered to leave their homes by Serb troops.

The Red Cross belatedly set up a registration tent. But it admitted it had no idea where the arrivals would find shelter. It has none to offer.

The authorities were urged last night to consider providing temporary shelters in school gymnasiums and abandoned factories. Those arriving did not care where they slept. They were simply relieved to have escaped with their lives.

Bajrum Nikats sank to his knees as a farmer told him he had reached the safety of the border. His wife, Baki, was convulsed in tears as she embraced her three young children. Bajrum described how gunmen burst into their home after dark and gave them 45 minutes to leave: "I walked outside and our whole village of Vil Lanishe was leaving. My wife's father tried to protest so they just shot him. He was laying at our feet, dying. They would not let my wife help him. She could not even touch him. We had to step over his body to get away. We cannot bury him and I doubt we will ever see our home again."

Children gripped chunks of bread in their muddied hands and looked suspiciously at one man who offered them soft drinks, wary of such acts of generosity after recent events.

When a border guard went to help a pregnant woman trying to ease herself out of a car, a six-year-old girl sitting on her lap screamed.

"There is no help for these people — nothing," one Albanian charity worker said as he helped a family of 11 into the back of a small van.

The refugees said that, as Nato has intensified its attacks, so have the Serbs.

Tefik Majku, 50, who arrived with ten of his family from the outskirts of Pristina, said: "Every time there was an air raid the Serbs would hit us with artillery and mortars."

One woman, her eyes red from crying, said: "My two sons were taken away. They let my father go because he is old. But he is somewhere on the mountain still."

http://www.mod.uk/news/kosovo — Ministry of Defence site dedicated to Kosovo conflict, with speeches by ministers, maps, chronology and UN resolutions

http://www.mediacenter.org — Pristina-based agency giving news and analysis from Serb point of view

http://www.zik.com/rubrika.htm — Kosovo Liberation Army website offering KLA declarations, interviews and chronology

http://www.iwpr.net — Institute for War and Peace Reporting. Independent group with wide range of reports on war, human rights, censorship.





Bedraggled refugees ride the last few miles to safety on a tractor and trailer

Kosovans tell of horror as they run gauntlet of Serbs

Continued from page 1

into the terrified refugees as they fled on Sunday.

"It was supposed to be the Christian day for religion. But these people were like devils, cold with hatred, sometimes laughing, sometimes yelling insults and throwing stones," she said.

"Three of our men were killed, in three different explosions, as we ran to Albania. As we left our house, they burned it. As it burned, they blew it up, they said that we would never be able to return because there would be nothing to return to," said the devastated young woman, who now owned only what she stood up in, a set of clothes and an anorak.



Shipresa: driven from her home with family

The scale of the Serb atrocities in Kosovo, which are not possible to independently verify, was given credence by the fact that every refugee in Kukes had a similar story. They told of mass rape, or men being tied up and then immolated in their homes, or random killings, and not a single act of mercy or help from their neighbours.

In the state-sponsored attempt at the genocide of Kosovos Albanians, the Serb minority, backed by police and paramilitary thugs bussed in from the Serb Republic, where they honed their skills during the early 1990s, ordinary civilians have been turned into beasts, said Shipresa.

"I am now lucky to be alive, I suppose. But what sort of a life can we now expect," she said. Then she turned and ran for a bus which would take her to a temporary home in an unknown village in a country she had never visited.

America remains wary of difficult terrain

From Ben Macintyre in Washington

PRESIDENT CLINTON is *coming under increasing* pressure to draw up plans for the use of ground forces in Kosovo, despite repeated assurances that the US Administration has no intention of becoming embroiled in a land war.

American political leaders and foreign policy analysts — from Republican presidential hopeful Senator John McCain to Henry Kissinger — have argued that Mr Clinton should at least raise the possibility of going beyond airstrikes, if only to keep President Milosevic guessing.

"We have to exercise every option," Mr McCain, a Vietnam veteran and former PoW, said. "If Mr Milosevic was convinced that ground troops are an option we might exercise, I think it could lend impetus to convincing him that he cannot win."

BATTLE TROOPS

Dr Kissinger argued that troops might be unavoidable. He said: "We have to take whatever measures are necessary, even reluctantly introducing ground forces if that is the only way."

Arlen Specter, the Republican senator, backed the suggestion that only European ground troops should be sent in to fight on European soil. "It's their backyard," Mr Specter said.

US officials are acutely aware that Kosovo represents a far more treacherous potential battlefield than the flat deserts of Iraq.

Echoing the US military philosophy that "we do deserts, we don't do mountains", Colonel Bill Taylor, a Vietnam veteran and head of political and military studies at the Washington Centre for Strategic and International Studies, said: "You're talking rugged land, high mountains, deep ravines ... it's a messy, Godawful terrain."

Nato thinks unthinkable on land war

Troops will face mountains and minefields, writes **Charles Bremner**

NATO confirmed yesterday that it had detailed plans for an eventual ground offensive in Kosovo but the scale of the operation would be so daunting in military and political terms that officials privately depicted it as unthinkable.

Alliance spokesmen insisted that a ground operation was not on the cards "for the moment" and the allied objective remained bringing President Milosevic to agree to a ceasefire. Jamie Shea, the Nato spokesman, said that it was not clear anyway that ground troops would "make any immediate difference" if deployed in Kosovo. "We have done some detailed planning but for the moment troops will only go in when there is a ceasefire agreement."

The scenario for a possible ground offensive was sketched by allied officials last October and conclusions were formidable. Nato would require between 200,000 and 300,000 troops, a level comparable to that in the Gulf War.

They would face well-trained Yugoslav armed forces of 90,000, two thirds of them regular soldiers in addition to thousands of special police units of the kind operating in Kosovo. "It would be a real all-out war," said a Nato diplomat. "We don't even have the forces."

It would take weeks to muster the military strength required and position them in the area to back up the existing 30,000 troops in Bosnia and 15,000 in Macedonia.

Heavy casualties would be inevitable in an operation of greater complexity than the Gulf War on hostile mountainous terrain. With roads and bridges destroyed and numerous minefields, moving troops by land in the face of concentrated enemy resistance would be certain to result in high casualties, military experts said.

The existing Allied Rapid Reaction Corps based in Macedonia has been preparing for ground operations of a limited nature to enforce a ceasefire in Kosovo. Not yet at its planned strength of 28,000, the corps was not intended to engage the regular Yugoslav armed forces but to carry out limited local operations.

With 6,000ft mountains along the border with Kosovo, the Macedonian-based forces would be easy targets to Serbian defenders as they tried to make their way through mountain passes. The terrain and lack of Nato aircraft make airborne operation exceedingly difficult, military experts noted. "The Serbs could even take to the hills and pick off large troop formations while the alliance got bogged down like in Vietnam," said a diplomat.

Although the alliance was sounding increasingly confident yesterday over its successes against the Serbian air force and air defences, Nato aircraft could expect to face continuing opposition from MiG29 fighters. On the ground the Serbian forces would be equipped with up to 1,000 battle tanks, including several hundred T72s, the most modern of the armoured weapons built by the Soviet Union to face Nato forces.

Commenting on the quality of the Yugoslav regular forces a Nato diplomat recalled that Western planning used to assume that these troops would seriously slow down any Soviet offensive in southern Europe. With the ground operation so militarily difficult, Nato officials are reluctant even to hypothesise about the likely course of an offensive.

By talking about planning and noting that troops are not "for the moment" to be used, Nato was anxious not to give any reassurance to President Milosevic that he could count on Western squeamishness to avert a ground war.





Pristina army garrison in Kosovo, below, and a Nato photograph of the barracks showing the damage after being struck by allied bombers at the weekend

Defence chief praises Harrier pilots after close shave

From Richard Owen in Gioia del Colle

GEORGE ROBERTSON, the Defence Secretary, yesterday congratulated RAF pilots at the Nato air base at Gioia del Colle in southern Italy, hours after Harriers taking part in bombing raids over Kosovo had encountered heavy anti-aircraft fire for the first time.

One of the 12 Harriers based here came within seconds of being fired at by a Serb SAM missile, which locked on to his aircraft and forced him to take evasive action.

MORALE BOOST

Pilots described to Mr Robertson the adrenaline rush of being targeted and the fear which followed after they had returned safely to base. Group Captain Ian Travers Smith, the RAF spokesman at Gioia del Colle, said the incident showed the risks that the Harriers were running and their skill in evading danger.

He said the pilot, who was on a mission to destroy an ammunition dump near Pristina, realised he had been detected and threatened by a SAM battery below. "He used a combination of techniques to avoid the danger," he said. "I cannot tell you what they were in case it helps the enemy."

Mr Robertson said: "The risks are very high and are obviously increasing all the time. These are very brave people."

One of the pilots involved in the Pristina raid, a Scot in his thirties, said that after landing he had spoken to the pilot who had nearly been fired at. "He did absolutely the right thing," he said. "It was a textbook reaction. He can take comfort from that."

He added: "In peacetime, if you get it wrong you get a hard time from the rest of the formation. The difference here is that if you get it wrong, you die. He said there was no obvious feeling of fear at the time. It's only when you're back in your bedroom that you think about it. Then there is fear."

Another flyer said: "When you look back you can remember every single minute of the sortie. What felt like an hour is compressed into a minute. The adrenaline is flowing."

Mr Robertson, who also spoke to the 280 ground-support staff in a morale-boosting visit, said he was impressed by the huge number of people required to keep a Harrier squadron in the air.

KOSOVO SUMMARY

Protester killed by gunman

Prague: A protester was shot dead at a rally here yesterday calling for a speedy peace deal in Kosovo, a witness said. A Reuters photographer, Petr Josek, said he saw a man firing three shots at a demonstrator before running away. Other witnesses said later that the gunman was arrested quickly and taken away by police. *(Reuters)*

Pope calls for peace

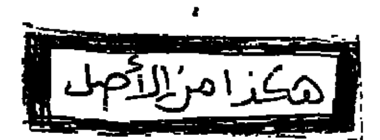
Rome: The Pope has urged the warring sides in Kosovo to cease fighting and to return to the negotiating table. Meeting Council of Europe representatives at the Vatican, he called on the the two sides to "let their weapons fall silent ... cease acts of vengeance ... and begin negotiations". *(AFP)*

Threat to embassies

Johannesburg: Security has been stepped up at the British and US Embassies in Pretoria following a telephoned threat to the *Citizen* newspaper here by a group calling itself the Serbian Liberation Front to bomb them, South African police said. *(AFP)*

Tourists cancel

Zagreb: Tourists hoping to spend Easter on Croatia's Adriatic coast are being frightened away by Nato airstrikes. A group of 40 British tourists who had been due to fly to Dubrovnik were among those who had cancelled, the daily *Jutarnji List* reported. *(AFP)*



Rebels appeal to Nato for more weapons

Alliance rules out arming the KLA and insists upon its impartiality, Daniel McGrory reports from Skopje

RUNNING *short of guns and* ammunition, the Kosovo Liberation Army appealed from its mountain hideouts last night for Nato to provide it with heavy weaponry for the hit-and-run war against the Serbs.

In suburbs around Pristina, brigades of the KLA were said to be engaged in hand-to-hand fighting and firing at Serb paramilitaries who had taken over apartment blocks in the centre of the city.

The KLA's sporadic attacks began minutes after Nato jets bombed a police station in the regional capital. As Serb forces fled from the burning building into the blacked out streets they were fired at by KLA units who had been in hiding in Pristina since the latest ethnic round-up began a week ago.

Serb forces have sealed off the capital and their orders are said to be to eradicate the KLA brigades. In the confusion it is difficult to guage how many fighters the KLA can call on in the capital, as opposed to recent recruits of men who evaded the Serb snatch squads who ethnic Albanian leaders say have been moving from door to door.

In a satellite telephone call, a KLA commander claimed there were gun and grenade attacks on two other police stations. "If Nato will not intervene with its troops, then give us their guns and tanks and we can do the job ourselves," the commander told a KLA supporter in the Macedonian capital, Skopje, yesterday.

Nato commanders have ruled out arming the KLA, arguing it not only breaches the United Nations weapons embargo but they could not supply the hardware they need while the region is engulfed by fighting.

One Nato source said: "We have to remain impartial, no matter how hard that seems. Besides, hour by hour the deterioration across the border means we cannot get weapons to them, nor train them how to use them." A KLA official suggested that rebels were secretly armed by the Pentagon in the weeks before this crisis erupted, though US officials in Skopje deny this.

American officials are also uncomfortable about the KLA launching its attacks in Pristina to coincide with the Nato bombing raids. "We see how the KLA would take advantage of the confusion in a night-time air raid but Belgrade will claim that Nato has become the air force of the KLA. We are there to protect civilians, not back one side in a civil war," an official said.

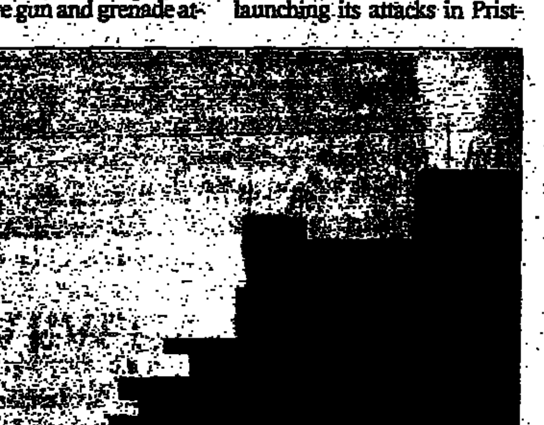
The race is to see if President Milosevic can purge the Albanians from rebellious Kosovo before the Nato bombardment can stop his military machine.

KLA leaders argue that if the White House is willing to fund and arm opponents of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, then why not aid the KLA to bring down Mr Milosevic?

How effective the KLA is proving in the guerrilla war is impossible to assess accurately, since every independent monitor has been driven from Kosovo.

With their newspapers and most television and radio stations shut down, KLA leaders like Hashim Thaci pleaded through the Internet and on satellite phone for ethnic Albanian leaders to stop the exodus of refugees. He argued that if they give up their homes they will never be allowed to return, though it is doubtful how many families will take seriously his boast that the KLA can defend them against Serb attacks. He ended his appeal by asking every man from 16 to 50 to join the KLA. It is now or never, he said.

In the ever more frantic propaganda war, the KLA claimed that the Serbs had burnt out their main newspaper, *Koha Ditore*. Belgrade replied that Nato planes had done the damage.



Flames leap skyward as Nato jets bombard Pristina



The Serb paramilitary chief known as Arkan — who was said to have been directing "ethnic cleansing" — with his children in Belgrade yesterday

Milosevic and generals warned that 'just following orders' is no defence

Belgrade top brass may be tried for atrocities, Michael Binyon writes

NATO yesterday raised the stakes in the Kosovo offensive, with a public warning to leading Serb generals that they face indictment as war criminals.

President Milosevic and four recently promoted hard-line generals were yesterday named as the men behind the brutal repression in Kosovo. The Ministry of Defence, which circulated their pictures, said they faced prosecution at the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia in The Hague. The Government insisted that the excuse of "only obeying orders" would be no defence.

The warning was issued after a Nato announcement that a Kosovo Albanian leader who took part in peace talks in Paris had been summarily executed by Serb forces. Nato said that Fehmi Agani, the main adviser to Ibrahim Rugova, the moderate Kosovo Albanian leader, was reportedly killed at the weekend, together with four other prominent Albanians, including Baton Haxhiu, editor-in-chief of the daily newspaper *Koha Ditore*. However, friends said they saw Mr Agani leaving Pristina with his family yesterday morning.

The four generals directing the repression in Kosovo were named yesterday as Lieutenant General Radomir Markovic, chief of the internal security police, Colonel General Dragolub Ojdanic, Lieutenant Colonel General Pavkovic and Major General Lazerevic, the military commanders in the province.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said there would be no hiding place for the perpetrators of the carnage. All war criminals would be brought before the "Bar of Justice". He said there was increasing evidence of "the brutality and evil of Milosevic's forces".

"To each of these commanders I say this is your responsibility. It will not be a defence to say 'I was following orders.' It will not be a defence to say 'I did not know' when you are in a position of command with a duty to know."

During the Second World War the Allies warned the Nazis that those responsible for atrocities on occupied territory faced prosecution when the war was over. The Moscow Declaration of 30 October 1943, signed by Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin clearly warned Nazi leaders and commanders that they would be brought before a tribunal, later set up in Nuremberg in 1945, to answer for crimes against civilians. The war crimes tribunal for Yugoslavia, set up during the Bosnian war, also stated that those responsible for war crimes would be tried — though few were indicted while the fighting was in progress.



Agani: moderate leader reported murdered

Nato said yesterday that the five prominent Albanians were killed after they attended the funeral of Bajram Kelmendi, a human rights lawyer shot dead by Serb police and dumped in the street with his two sons on Wednesday, the first night of the airstrikes.

General Markovic was appointed Head of State Security in October 1998. He is a native of Belgrade.General Ojdanic was appointed Chief of the General Staff on 6 June 1996 by the Supreme Defence Council, which makes him a Milosevic appointee.General Pavkovic is Commander 3 Army whose area of responsibility covers Kosovo and which conducts military operations against the Kosovo Liberation Army. Gen Lazerevic is Commander of 52 Corps.

KOSOVO SUMMARY

Protester killed by gunman

Pope calls for peace

Threat to embassies

Tourists cancel

Serb unity is the deadliest weapon confronting Nato alliance

COMMENTARY
Roger Boyes

CLAUSEWITZ has been nudged from the 19th century into the age of CNN, but a central teaching of the Prussian strategist holds good: war is a contest of wills, and if the will to win crumbles, then the chances of victory fade.

European public opinion at the outset of the war against Slobodan Milosevic is very brittle. Even in Britain, where support for the war is the highest in Europe, public backing falls short of that for the 1982 Falklands conflict or the Gulf War of 1991. Airstrikes are approved of, according to *The Sunday Times*-Marplan poll, by slightly more than two-thirds of Britons. But only 28 per cent believe that bombs alone will bring peace to Yugoslavia, and a narrow majority believes that Mr Milosevic's position will be strengthened.

For the rest of Europe the uneasy support for an airstrike-led war is likely to collapse as soon as ground troops are brought into the discussion. One in two Italians is already opposed to bombardment, according to a survey. In Germany there is 57 per cent support for airstrikes, but anecdotal evidence suggests that the longer the air war continues, the more certain it is that support will fade.

It is striking how many older Germans are set against the war — they remember well enough how hard the Serbs fought against the Nazis in 1941.

The Balkan states are the most afraid of, and the most critical of, the air bombardment. This is not a marginal issue.

Romania and Bulgaria are candidates for Nato; Hungary (now on the front line) has just joined the alliance. In Bulgaria, 56 per cent believe Nato should keep out of Kosovo.

Suddenly the three new Nato members (Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary), which earlier this month were celebrating their admission, have found that they have to shoulder a heavy collective responsibility; only their ancient aircraft are keeping them out of the skies.

In France, where 57 per cent support the airstrikes, the mood seems to be closer to the British. Even so, the elite is more deeply split than the general public. In Germany, as in Britain, former pacifists are pleading the case for war; cold warriors are warning against a hot war.

The Serbs, even those metropolitan liberals who despise Mr Milosevic, are focusing their anger entirely on Nato, not on the dictator. The Serbs are more united than they have been in a decade. The same cannot be said of the Nato alliance.

The next stage of the propaganda war is therefore being worked out carefully. The Kosovo Liberation Army is talking of a "holocaust" — one of the buttons that traditionally releases emotional popular support for deeper Western involvement.

The Serbs, for their part, have reconsidered their decision to banish foreign reporters: to influence public opinion in the West they need graphic accounts of burning hospitals and orphanages.

In the US, the pressure on the Clinton Administration is to work out an "exit strategy", the essential component for public support for any ground-troops deployment. In Europe there are no illusions about exiting easily from a war that is an hour's flight from the Continent's main summer holiday resorts. Kosovo is plainly not Vietnam. But the Serbs say of their dictator: he is a man who can hold his breath under water. How long can we hold ours?

Primakov in peace bid

Alice Lagnado in Moscow on Russia's mission to Belgrade

PRESIDENT YELTSIN has ordered his three most senior ministers to visit Belgrade today in a diplomatic mission aimed at ending the war in Kosovo. After days of overblown rhetoric the move constitutes the first real attempt to halt the bombing.

Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Prime Minister, Igor Ivanov, the Foreign Minister and Igor Sergeyev, the Defence Minister, will conduct talks with President Milosevic aimed at stopping the war.

Nato member states have said that Russia, more than any other country, has a chance of persuading Mr Milosevic to agree to some kind of compromise deal.

The trip to seek a political settlement comes on the eve of Mr Yeltsin's State of the Nation address in which he is expected again roundly to condemn the Nato offensive.

Aleksei Arbatov, the Deputy Chairman of the Parliamentary Defence Committee, said that it was unclear exactly what kind of a deal the Russians would propose.

He did say that Mr Primakov was expected to go straight to Washington after the talks in Belgrade, where he will discuss any agreed deal with President Clinton.

The trip is an indication of Russia's growing frustration over the bombing. Russia claims that 1,000 civilians have died as a result of the airstrikes, while at a press conference yesterday Mr Ivanov dismissed suggestions that the Serbs were following a policy of genocide against ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. This was a rumour circulated to justify Nato's aggression, he said.

Mr Ivanov added that Russia had suspended all relations with Nato and that the Contact Group was under threat. "The aggression casts in doubt the existence of the Contact Group," he said.

Mr Arbatov said that other accords were also in danger. He said that the Partnership for Peace agreement was frozen and would be cancelled altogether, along with other arms treaties, if bombing continued. The *Start 2* accord to reduce Russian and American nuclear weapons remains unratified by Parliament although it was concluded over six years ago. Despite Russia's declaration that it does not intend to become militarily involved in Kosovo, the Parliament announced yesterday that it would meet to discuss increasing the combat capabilities of the armed forces.

Meanwhile, ordinary Russians are becoming angrier at Nato's actions. On Sunday gunmen fired at the US Embassy, which is covered with paint thrown by demonstrators. The British Embassy sent a warning to citizens to be careful and a group of foreign journalists reported having their car tyres punctured.

Russia is also angry about a report published in the *New Yorker* magazine that suggested that Mr Primakov is in the pay of Saddam Hussein. Mr Ivanov denied the allegations and said that the article was an attempt by the West to distract from and justify Nato's actions in Kosovo.

Mr Primakov's mission was announced on the same day that he struck a deal with Michel Camdessus, the visiting IMF head, to work out an economic plan that will form the basis for new loans to Russia. It is widely expected that a loan of nearly $5 million (£3 billion) will be granted.

☐ Kiev: A senior Ukrainian official yesterday said a mediating mission to Yugoslavia had returned empty-handed. "We have received no positive reply from Milosevic," the official said. "He has adopted a completely intransigent position and seems to be blind and deaf to our proposals." *(Reuters)*

PETER DEJONG · AP



Jamie Shea, the media face of Nato, whose self-effacing manner masks a firm hand

Britannia rules the airwaves

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN BRUSSELS

AN UNAWARE viewer who tunes into the daily news sessions at Nato's headquarters in Brussels could get the impression that the Western alliance is an all-British affair.

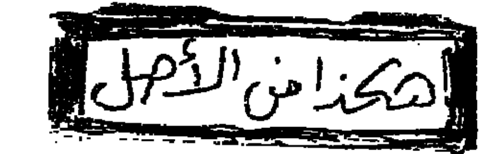
With the campaign in Kosovo, two Britons, one in RAF uniform, the other in a dark blue suit, have become known worldwide through their double-act, feeding the world media with the latest war news.

The military side is handled by Air Commodore David Wilby, a trim RAF type who is handy with a laser pointer. A smooth media operator, he uses occasional martial levity. Asked yesterday if Nato warned Serbian civilians of impending attacks, he replied: "In this business, we don't expect to receive an invitation and we don't send out calling cards saying we're coming."

But the star of the show is Jamie Shea, 45, a Londoner whose cockney-tinged voice has been Nato's media face for over a decade. A former university teacher, Mr Shea has a slightly self-effacing manner. But it is misleading because, after 18 years in the organisation, he is an authoritative figure. More than just the chief spokesman, he is also a close adviser to Javier Solana, the Secretary-General. The confidence of his boss enables him to issue warnings to President Milosevic and his commanders in polished sound-bite format.

A sentence on Sunday on Europe's worst humanitarian disaster since the Second World War made the world's front pages. His soft style masks a firm hand. When a reporter tried to barge into the session yesterday, he cut him off: "Thank you but I direct the questions here." He does the same in French, which he speaks fluently.





Ratings soar as viewers put faith in BBC

BY CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC has won the lion's share of the millions of extra television viewers tuning into news coverage of the conflict in Yugoslavia.

The *Nine O'Clock News* last week became the highest rated news programme as the nation turned, as it often does in times of crisis, to the voice of the BBC.

Anchormen Peter Sissons and Michael Buerk were watched by an average 7.3 million people on the three first days of the airstrikes — an increase of nearly three million on the previous week. At its peak the *Nine O'Clock News* pulled in 8.2 million — the largest news audience this year.

The *Six O'Clock News*, fronted by Anna Ford, moved into second place adding an extra one million viewers to its ratings. It pulled in an average audience of 7.1 million compared with 6.1 million the week before.

A BBC insider said: "The audience on Wednesday night was phenomenal. We had 7.2 million for the *Six O'Clock News*, 5.8 million for the special report at 7pm and 8.2 million for the *Nine O'Clock News*."

By contrast, the new *ITV Evening News* programme, anchored by Trevor McDonald at 6.30pm, actually lost viewers according to average figures for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday last week.

Despite a flying start when it was launched earlier this month, *ITV Evening News* polled an average of 6.3 million viewers in the first three days of the war — 100,000 down on the same period the previous week. However, the conflict helped *ITV Nightly News* at 11pm, which replaced the axed *News at Ten*, poll its biggest audience so far. Last Wednesday 5.3 million viewers tuned in, compared with the usual 3.6 million.

Channel 4 News, which recently underwent a £3 million revamp, has seen viewing figures leap, gaining a third more viewers since the crisis began. The programme, hosted by Jon Snow, normally attracts an average audience of 900,000 but that grew to an average of 1.2 million after Nato airstrikes began.

Sky News has more than doubled its audience because as a rolling news service it can provide continuous live coverage of events. More than two million viewers tuned in over the three days after the conflict started, peaking at 10.15pm on Wednesday after the first wave of attacks.

The BBC's *Newsnight* is leading the current affairs ratings battle. Its audience has surged by nearly 50 per cent to 1.6 million since the war began.

The public has so far shown none of the signs of war fatigue experienced during the Gulf War in 1991.

Then, programme controllers were forced to reduce extended programmes after viewers complained that Operation Desert Storm was receiving saturation coverage and they did not want normal programme schedules to be disrupted.

News executives at all the main channels believe that the public is more interested in the current crisis because it is closer to home.

"We are showing places being bombed close to where they have been on their holidays and that tends to keep the concentration span going," said a senior BBC source.

In 1991 viewers were watching an extra three hours of television a week during the war and this time early estimate indicate that this figure will be exceeded.

Media analysts believe that the BBC has put on most ratings because it has a place in history as a trusted source of accurate information during wartime.

BOGDAN CRISTEL / REUTERS



A pro-Serb demonstrator in Bucharest yesterday with a banner attacking perceived Western media distortion

MPs are bounced from barbarity to the price of milk



The world seems to be producing more news than we can consume. The Prime Minister was forced yesterday to make a grisly bumper statement to the Commons, bundling up the war in Serbia with the recent EU settlement on agricultural, budgetary and other matters in Berlin.

A surreal hour. MPs bounced from massacre in the Balkans to the price of milk. Tony Blair got a bigger cheer for news that Cornwall, West Wales and South Yorkshire qualify for Objective 1 status, than he did for his chilling statement that "for every act of barbarity, every slaughter of the innocent, Milosevic must be made to pay a higher and higher price".

This potpourri of the domestic and the macabre ended in a Tory attempt to trigger a by-election which raised humbuggery to levels causing even MPs' eyes to water.

Through the fog of war in Kosovo, complained John Wilkinson (C. Ruislip Northwood) "it becomes difficult to discern events at the European Council in Berlin". Blair did his best to be majestic on cereal prices but he sounded perfunctory and looked shattered. Too tired to puff his achievements in Berlin, he hardly denied it was at best a hard-fought draw. Were politics a Sony Playstation game, the warning "Emergency! Hype-reserves running low!" would now be flashing up on Blair's personal screen.

But not Donald Anderson's. The Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee called Berlin a "triumph". If this is what Mr Anderson calls a triumph, what would he call a triumph? But even William Hague could not pretend convincingly that it was a disaster. Nobody mentioned duty-free, sucked into that black hole where certain six-day sensations mysteriously disappear.

On Kosovo Blair did not lack passion, though defensive and with a hint of despair. He protested angrily that it was "simply absurd" to say that ethnic cleansing had been caused by the Nato bombing — before anyone said it had. When Sir John Stanley (C. Tonbridge & Malling) doubted Blair's assurance that this was a long-established Serb plan, Blair's face and voice registered something close to rage: the first time I have seen this.

Poor Mr Blair. William Hague urged him forward with ifs and buts and Bowen Wells (C. Hertford & Stortford) urged him back. Sir Alastair Goodlad (C. Eddisbury) told him to hurry up and bomb harder, while Sir Peter Tapsell, the Tory MP for Louth, Horncastle (& Destiny), crying Halt!, called him tragic, inept, illegal, botched and "stupid as the Kaiser". Blair replied with irony: "If I can pick one point we agree on ..."

A patchwork of opinion, but at least they all meant it. The Tories then tried to trigger an early by-election in Newark. Opposition Chief Whip James Arbuthnot broke his whip's silence to loose off a barrage of cant, affecting high indignation about Newark's former MP's conviction exceeding her campaign expenses.

There can hardly be a Member unaware of the devices employed by ancient custom and practice to dodge legal ceilings on expenses, but Tories rolled their eyes in moral horror. MPs switch sincerity on and off. You and I know they mean it about Kosovo, but not about Newark. But how is your ordinary Serb to tell?

Saturation coverage leaves couch potatoes in the dark

BY PAUL HOGGART

DISTANT explosions, weeping refugees, correspondents in peril — there is nothing like an allied airstrike to galvanise television news into a hyperactive frenzy. Twenty-four-hour news channels blossom like deserts after rain. It is sometimes difficult to see what these channels are for, quite frankly. What sort of strange anorak watches them for any length of time? A nice little war, however, seems to justify their very existence. The terrestrial channels catch the bug too, with BBC2's *Newsnight* running extended editions and producing a special snazzy logo. But they are curbed by schedules: Sky News, CNN and BBC News 24 can really get stuck in.

After a day's fevered channel-flipping, I can authoritatively say that there is not much to choose between them. CNN may have the widest range of correspondents, but all three cover the same locations: Belgrade, Macedonia, the Albanian border, Italian air bases, Nato headquarters, Washington and London.

Sky News told me proudly that their Aernout Van Lynden was one of only two correspondents in Montenegro (the other was Swiss or something which hardly counts). But the BBC has just sent a man there, they told me indignantly, and before that they used a stringer. Only CNN can boast a Washington correspondent called Wolf Blitzer, which takes some beating. Watching the news unfold, you realise the problem. Each channel has to unfold a gripping narrative over which it has no control.

The air of dramatic urgency must be whipped up and sustained, when often there is nothing to report. As I zapped from channel to channel, they zapped from a UK airbase where four B52s had taken off, possibly to Louisiana to stock up on cruise missiles (we await confirmation) to Moscow where the Prime Minister was about to leave for Belgrade and possibly another capital (we await confirmation) to the Albanian border where crossing points were possibly being closed (we await etc).

Viewers obsessed with the war should avoid BBC News 24: its coverage is constantly interrupted by other news stories. Sky showed more gusto, with Francis Tuşa, who knows where all the buttons are on a Harrier's joystick, but for most of us one evening bulletin should be enough.

Police 'covered up' A6 murder evidence

Inquiry orders new appeal to be heard, 37 years after James Hanratty's death, reports Stewart Tendler

POLICE withheld vital evidence in the trial of James Hanratty, who was hanged in 1962 for the "A6 murder", according to investigations by the new inquiry into miscarriages of justice.

Yesterday, as the Criminal Cases Review Commission announced that it was sending the Hanratty case back to the Court of Appeal, campaigners said that the commission had acted after uncovering documents unseen for 37 years.

Hanratty, 25, was executed in Bedford prison for the murder of Michael Gregsten. The new appeal is a victory for relatives and friends who have campaigned for years to clear his name.

Hanratty was convicted of murder at the end of an 11-day trial in which it was claimed that he disturbed Mr Gregsten and his mistress, Valerie Storie, in a field near the Thames at Dorney Reach, Berkshire, in August 1961, then forced them to drive to Deadman's Hill, south of Bedford, where Mr Gregsten was killed. Miss Storie, then 22, was raped, shot and left for dead.

The Morris Minor the couple was using was driven off and later found in Redbridge, East London. Miss Storie was paralysed from the waist down, but was able to give the key evidence against Hanratty.

Yesterday Geoffrey Bindman, the lawyer for the Hanratty family since 1972, said that the commission had sent him a brief report disclosing the reasons why the case is going to the appeal court.

Mr Bindman said that some of the official documents found by the commission disclosed "startling, astounding information". A Home Office review 12 years after the murder did not apparently uncover them, and Scotland Yard has always refused access to files on the investigation.

"The amount of information not disclosed by the prosecution at the trial is very substantial and it is clear that, if that material had been disclosed, James Hanratty would not have been convicted," Mr Bindman said.

The commission also found that the identity parade at which Hanratty was picked out was flawed, and Mr Bindman said that the commission found senior police officers had clearly withheld vital information from the defence and the Crown.

Mr Bindman said that the first police interview with Miss Storie was never disclosed and put to the trial, although it showed discrepencies in her memory of events.

He said that the commission also found that police knew from the speedometer of the Morris Minor that it had made a much longer journey between the scene of the murder and Redbridge. The details were recorded in a police pocketbook.

Two witnesses claimed to have seen the car in Redbridge driven by Hanratty a few hours after the murder. But there were also 11 other witnesses who saw it as far north as Derbyshire. The mileage figures support the 11 witnesses, meaning that Hanratty could not have driven to Redbridge by the time he was allegedly seen.

Mr Bindman said that police had known that a woman with a Morris Minor resembling the victims' car parked it regularly in the Redbridge area where Hanratty was supposed to have been seen.

"This is not a case of something being remembered 30 years later. This was all known at the time," Mr Bindman said.

Yesterday James Hanratty's brother, Michael, said that he was delighted by the referral, but "it makes me sad it has taken all this time".

"My father always said that, if we could get the papers, we would solve it. We have had 37 years of cover-up. Jimmy, on his last day, said the police framed him."

No decision has yet been made by the Crown Prosecution Service whether to contest an appeal. After the original trial, the Court of Appeal turned down Hanratty's appeal against his conviction. Twelve years after his death, Roy Jenkins, then Home Secretary, ordered a review, which concluded that the conviction was safe.

In 1996 a Scotland Yard review decided there were doubts over the conviction and in 1997 the commission agreed to take up the case.

□ The Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs yesterday praised the work of the commission, but said that some prisoners were likely to finish their sentences before their cases were dealt with.

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Food that cuts cholesterol has a fat price

By Helen Rumbelow

EATING four daily teaspoons of Finnish wood pulp disguised as a margarine may lower cholesterol, but it will cost as much as the rest of your breakfast.

Benecol yesterday became the first food to go on sale in Britain with a manufacturer's claim that it acts like a medicine and has proven medical benefits. It can cut cholesterol by up to 10 per cent and so reduce the risk of heart attacks by a third, say its makers. This has health educators worried that a new trend in "nutriceuticals", or medicine foods, will persuade the public to pay higher prices instead of trying to lead a healthy lifestyle. The British Heart Foundation said that people should concentrate on exercising, eating a low-fat diet and not smoking.



Benecol: pining for health

Benecol is made from plant sterols, a waste product of the pine processing industry and produced in Finland by Raisio, a paper manufacturer. It is different from low-cholesterol margarines, as it "helps actually to lower cholesterol". Plant sterols pass through the body, dragging cholesterol stored in the gut with them.

For those who can stomach eating an ounce of the yellow paste a day but balk at the price — 40p for the recommended serving, five times the price of butter and margarine — it tastes very much like ordinary margarine. A 250g tub will cost £2.49, with the cream-cheese version 50p more expensive. Flora Vegetable Spread is 47p and Anchor Spreadable Butter 99p.

Raisio says its price is cheaper than healthcare for a damaged heart. It has escaped EU procedures that are holding up the rival Flora Pro-Activ because Benecol has already been on sale in Finland for four years. Britain was chosen as the first country of export because 70 per cent of adults have raised cholesterol. The next target is the United States.

There are fears that it may slightly prevent the gut absorbing vitamins such as D, so it is not recommended for pregnant women and children.

BARRY BACHELOR



The 7th Marquess of Bath was joined yesterday by the television presenters Trude Mostue, left, and Suzanne Dando to celebrate 50 years of opening Longleat to the public

Scions of Longleat take pride in 50 years of stately progress

By Alan Hamilton

IT SEEMED at the time like a P.G. Wodehouse story come to life. There was one of England's eccentric aristocrats, kitted out in baggy old corduroys, collecting the half crowns of *hoi polloi* so that they could gawp at the inside of his house. So demeaning, don't you know.

Fifty years to the week since the 6th Marquess of Bath became the country's first stately-home owner to let in the common herd, Longleat has had the last laugh. One of the great Elizabethan houses of England remains intact and in the family, thanks to Lord Bath's ruthless exploitation of base commerce. Equally well preserved is the family's reputation for unconventional behaviour. The present marquess, formerly the bearded Viscount Weymouth, who gained fame with his harem of up to 60 "wifelets", celebrated the anniversary yesterday by publishing the first six volumes of his autobiography on the Internet.

Necessity drove the 6th Marquess to become a pioneer of top-drawer showmanship in 1949. On the death of his father three years earlier, he had inherited from the Inland Revenue a demand for death duties of £600,000, a colossal amount that, even if he could have paid it, would have left him little with which to maintain the house of 100 rooms.

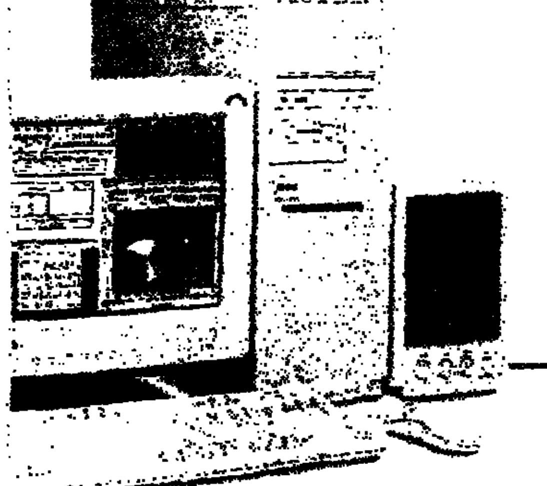
He furnished the house as it had been in 1914 and, on April 1, stood on the front steps with the then marchioness, his first wife, Daphne, to welcome the first curious and faintly bemused tourists. It was, at first, a family affair. The marchioness had written the guidebook, and their young children were deputed as tour guides or car park attendants.

By 1957 Longleat had clocked up its millionth visitor. But maintaining the numbers called for imagination and showmanship: in 1966, Lord Bath went into partnership with the circus owner James Chipperfield, fenced off 25 acres of Capability Brown's grounds and introduced 12 lions to the country's first safari park.

Longleat's quest for ever more numbers continues. Visitors can now see the 7th Marquess's collection of murals. He said yesterday that he hoped his website would attract more visitors.

The 6th Marquess, who failed to get into Eton, was sent instead to Harrow, where the Head Master described him as "moronic beyond reach". Harrow nil, Longleat one.

Leading article, page 19



NEWS IN BRIEF

Pinochet challenge delayed

General Augusto Pinochet was given permission by the High Court to challenge Jack Straw's decision to authorise extradition proceedings. The judicial review was, however, adjourned until after April 15 to give the Home Secretary time to consider the law lords' ruling last week that greatly reduced the number of charges on which the former Chilean leader could be extradited. Jonathan Sumption, QC, for Mr Straw, said the minister wished to reconsider the case and hear submissions from the opposing parties afresh, "with a blank sheet of paper".

Barristers to pay

Incompetent and rude barristers will pay up to £2,000 compensation to clients under proposals shortly to go before the Bar Council. At present, compensation for poor service can be claimed only if it has caused a loss that would be recoverable in the courts.

Killer convicted

A court in Beersheba convicted Daniel Okev of murdering Jeffrey Hunter, 22, a British tourist also known as Max, and wounding Charlotte Gibb, 20, in Israel in 1997. Okev, to be sentenced later, was said to have been mentally damaged by his time in the army.

Vaccine drive

More than 300 nursery school children and adults have received meningitis vaccinations after five cases of a virulent strain in Brighton. A two-year-old died last week from C-type meningitis. Two mothers and two children have since been admitted to hospital.

The sign of one

A police force's register for officers to declare membership of secret societies has attracted only one signature. Derbyshire Constabulary set up the voluntary list for its 1,700 officers in November 1997 to be available to the public at the Chief Constable's discretion.

Osteopath assaulted patients

AN OSTEOPATH burst into tears yesterday as a jury convicted him of indecently assaulting three women patients (Russell Jenkins writes).

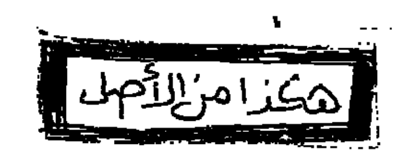
Michael Locan, 38, faces jail and a professional ban for the attacks, in which he exposed himself or fondled patients.

He had been practising osteopathy for only a year after deciding at the age of 31 that he no longer wanted to be an insurance salesman. His wife, Victoria, supported him while he studied for five years.

Minshull Street Crown Court, Manchester, was told that the assaults took place at a practice in Stockport where Locan worked one day a week.

A 38-year-old teacher said that he massaged her back rather than her injured shoulder and then exposed himself. A hospital dietitian said that after she stripped to her underwear, Locan brushed past her up to six times while exposing himself. The third woman, an office worker, went to police after being treated by him.

Sentencing on Locan, of Hale, Cheshire, was deferred. The General Osteopathic Council said he had applied to join the body but a decision had been delayed pending the outcome of the trial.





هكذا من الأصل

IRA reveals graves of 'disappeared'

Move could improve chances of Blair and Ahern rescuing peace process, writes **Martin Fletcher**

THE IRA announced last night that it had identified the unmarked graves of nine people it abducted and killed during the 1970s.

The announcement came after the British and Irish Governments issued statements saying evidence procured in recovering the remains of the "disappeared" would not be used in prosecutions. The IRA apologised for the "prolonged anguish" caused to the victims' families.

The move coincided with the arrival in Belfast of Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, on a last-ditch mission to save the Good Friday peace accord. Before embarking on talks with party leaders that are expected to last throughout today, Mr Blair said that failure to implement the accord because of the deadlock over IRA disarmament would be "the greatest betrayal of the people I could think of . . . We have come a very long way indeed and I can't believe we're going to throw it all away."

Government sources said the IRA's gesture would improve the atmosphere at the start of a critical week that could see the accord collapse unless the deadlock over disarmament can be broken. "If it brings relief to the families, it can't come a moment too soon," one source said.

Three of the graves are believed to be those of Jean McConville, Brian McKinney and John McClory. Mrs McConville, a widowed mother of ten young children, was abducted from her flat in West Belfast in 1972 after she comforted a dying soldier. Mr McKinney and Mr McClory were 22 and 18 when they were abducted by the IRA in 1978 after they helped to rob an IRA-run bar in West Belfast. None of the three was seen again.

Last year the IRA expressed regret over its missing victims and said it was searching for their remains. There are at least a dozen others known to have disappeared, including Robert Nairac, the SAS captain seized outside a South Armagh pub in 1978 while working under cover.

Mr Blair and Mr Ahern last night began a string of intensive meetings at Hillsborough Castle in a desperate attempt to broker a compromise on decommissioning. President Mandela of South Africa telephoned David Trimble and Seamus Mallon, Northern Ireland's First and Deputy First Ministers, to offer his support.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said that the Prime Ministers' involvement could help, but cautioned that they brought with them no magic formula. Mr Ahern said he could offer no guarantee of success. Mr Trimble and Gerry Adams held yet another long meeting, but there was no sign of them bridging the gulf between them.

Mitchel McLaughlin, Sinn Fein's chairman, reiterated that Unionist demands for IRA disarmament were unrealistic. Mr Trimble's Ulster Unionist Party, which will not sit in an executive with Sinn Fein until disarmament has begun, said it was abhorrently clear that the failure to commence decommissioning and the continued retention of private armies violated the accord.

There was speculation that the IRA would seek to wrongfoot Mr Trimble with a statement that would sound promising, but would stop short of the downpayment of weaponry that Mr Trimble is demanding.

There was also speculation about future moves in the likely event that the IRA does not begin disarming. Dr Mowlam has said that she will trigger the mechanism for establishing the executive tomorrow or Thursday, come what may, but there was considerable doubt that she would take a step that could well precipitate Mr Trimble's resignation and destroy the peace accord.

Mr Trimble could seek to pre-empt such a move by exercising his right to ask for a government review of the accord. Alternatively, he could refuse to nominate any Unionist ministers and resign himself in the belief that Dr Mowlam would not devolve power from London to an entirely nationalist executive. Or he could establish an all-party executive that includes Sinn Fein, but convene no meetings, which would also probably prevent Dr Mowlam devolving power.

Michael Gove, page 18

PAUL McERLANE



Mary McClory, left, and her neighbour Margaret McKinney holding photographs of their sons, John and Brian, who were abducted by the IRA in 1978

'Don't turn us into another Kosovo'

Audrey Magee visits Armagh, where the optimism engendered by last year's Good Friday agreement has been replaced by tension and the dread of war

ARMAGH, the ecclesiastical capital of Ireland, was in a nervous mood yesterday as people watched events unfold in Stormont and Kosovo.

"Take your pick," said a 42-year-old Roman Catholic woman. "We can go one way or the other. Politics, or end up like those poor people in Kosovo — being bombed and burnt out of our homes."

The woman, who, like many in Armagh, declined to be named for fear of reprisals, said that people were "frantic with worry" that their politicians would not find a solution, that the talks would flounder and that war would start again.

"It used to be around here that we were afraid of the bombs. Armagh was attacked a few times. But now we're afraid of the future and it's hard to know which is worse," she said.

The future should be dazzling for Armagh, a beautiful town declared a city four years ago by the Queen.

It is the centre of the Protestant and Catholic Churches in Ireland. Two cathedrals dominate the city's skyline, both named after St Patrick, who founded the city in 444. Georgian buildings rival those found in Dublin, and the city is blessed with libraries, parks and nature trails.

But because of its location, the city is sought out by only a handful of the bravest tourists. Portadown, where Orangemen are still protesting over the right to march down Garvaghy Road, is ten miles away. Lough Gall, where eight IRA members were shot dead by the SAS in 1987, is five miles away.

There are marginally more Catholics than Protestants in the city of 15,000, and relations between the two communities improved dramatically in the wake of last year's Good Friday agreement. One woman, however, said that tension was replacing optimism and that "people are keeping themselves to themselves these days."

One Protestant man who voted for the peace agreement last year is now deeply opposed to the entire process. Bombed out of business by the IRA in 1973, the 66-year-old shoe retailer finds it impossible to support the lack of movement on decommissioning.

"If I had known they were going to let them blaggards out of jail so easily, I would not have said 'Yes'," he said. "I have always been a Unionist, always supported the Ulster Unionist Party. But not any more. David Trimble has not been firm on anything. He compromises on everything."

Herbert Cassidy, the Dean of Armagh, is in charge of the impressive Church of Ireland cathedral built in 1268. He is also caretaker of the wonderful library built by Archbishop Robinson in 1771, which is now home to 25,000 antique books. The books provide a retreat from the endless hours of negotiations undertaken by the Protestant and Catholic Churches in Armagh to secure the peace process. Dean Smith now sees their hard work teetering on the brink of failure.

"I think everybody is hoping that they will pull a rabbit out of the hat like last Good Friday," he said.

"But everybody in the Unionist community would be fearful that there will be no movement on decommissioning and the only animal coming out of this year's hat will be a fudged rabbit.

"There are rumours flying around that Trimble is in danger of losing his seat at the next election. He has come a long way from his earlier years, but I think he is in danger of losing sight of his troops and getting so far ahead that he has left them behind."

But Maire Gallagher, a Catholic solicitor and SDLP voter insists on being optimistic. "We can't let it go backwards again," she said. "We have too much to lose for our children, our businesses and ourselves.

"It broke my heart when the bombs went off at the end of the last ceasefire. It can't happen again. Kosovo should remind us of how terrible it can be."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Isle of Man acts to curb drugs use

The Isle of Man is acting to combat the alarming rise in the use of illegal drugs. Five years ago heroin and Ecstasy were virtually unknown there: today drug dealers lured by profits higher than those on the mainland are preying on the pubs and clubs of Douglas.

Donald Gelling, the Chief Minister, has drawn up a five-year anti-drugs strategy. Customs officers, who already patrol the Irish Sea in search of heroin smugglers several times a week, are to be given the resources for night patrols, using intelligence co-ordinated with mainland forces. Ferry passengers can expect closer scrutiny by an expanded drugs squad. Dealers are to be severely punished, and money launderers will also be targeted.

Alert on IVF

The fastest-growing test-tube fertilisation technique may produce babies with abnormal sex chromosomes, according to American researchers. A study of rhesus monkeys showed that intracytoplasmic sperm injection altered sperm behaviour and could also damage eggs.

NHS to help jails

Healthcare in jails is to be upgraded for the first time in 50 years to help to make inmates healthier and less likely to re-offend on release. The Prison Service is to share the task of caring for patients with the NHS for the first time. A report said medical care in jails had fallen behind.

Wife sentenced

Victoria Wood, 56, of Harbertonford, Devon, who admitted an attempted mercy killing of her husband Timothy, 69, was sentenced to two years probation at Exeter Crown Court for attempted murder. Mr Wood, a former teacher, had suffered from irreversible dementia since 1993.

Pay warning

The Government should delay paying teachers according to performance until after the next election or risk a backlash that could wreck its drive to improve standards. Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, told the union's annual assembly in Harrogate.

Dome theatre

Skyscape, the 5,000-seat annexe to the Millennium Dome, will house Britain's largest theatre, showing a film on British humour by day and musical performances at night. It is receiving £12 million sponsorship from BSkyB, an associate company of News International, owner of *The Times*.

Children see nature for free

By Susie Steiner

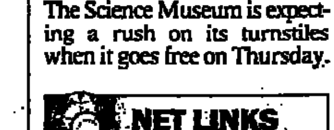
THE Natural History Museum was the first to allow children in free yesterday, for the first time in 11 years. A further 20 museums will follow on Thursday.

The move is the initial phase of the Government's manifesto promise to make all national museums and galleries free to the public, after charging was introduced in 1988. Pensioners will be allowed in free next year.

The Government wants to see adult charges dropped in 2001-02 and is discussing funding with museum trustees. Some £30 million has been set aside to compensate the museums for loss of income.

Of 30 national museums and galleries in England and Wales, eight — including the British Museum, Tate Gallery and National Gallery — chose to retain free entry.

Among those going free this week are the National Portrait Gallery, the Cabinet War Rooms, the Imperial War Museum and all the museums and galleries on Merseyside. The Science Museum is expecting a rush on its turnstiles when it goes free on Thursday.



www.nhm.ac.uk National History Museum
www.iwm.org.uk Imperial War Museum (with links to Cabinet War Rooms)
www.nmsi.ac.uk/nmpft.gif National Museum of Science and Industry (including Science Museum; National Museum of Photography, Film and Television; National Railway Museum)
www.culture.gov.uk Department of Culture, Media and Sport website which has details of free entry

Rejected lover guilty of model's murder

Adrian Lee and Richard Duce on a life sentence for ex-soldier who said death was part of suicide pact

A FORMER Israeli soldier who murdered a model because she wanted to end their affair was jailed for life by an Old Bailey judge yesterday.

Kadamba Simmons, 24, a former girlfriend of Liam Gallagher, the Oasis singer, was strangled by Yaniv Malka, who then tried to prove that her death had been part of a suicide pact.

Her only starring role had been in a shampoo commercial, but Miss Simmons's looks and penchant for celebrity boyfriends ensured that her name was on some of the most exclusive guest lists.

She was 14 when the pop star Matt Goss, of Bros, spotted her at a London bus stop and, believing her to be older, sent a minder to ask her for a date. She reminded him of a 1930s film star, he said later.

The teenager, who had attended theatre school, needed little encouragement to join the party set. The daughter of a lighting cameraman who took her on to film sets, she dreamt of an acting career.

A modelling job for Martini followed, she became a Pantene shampoo girl and landed a few bit-parts in films. In *Mary Reilly* she had a minor role as a prostitute, alongside Julia Roberts.

However, she was known better for the arms on which she was seen. After Goss, then enjoying huge fame, came Gallagher. In her words, they enjoyed a "sexy rock star fling". She also dated the boxer Prince Naseem Hamed.

Miss Simmons experimented with cocaine and neglected her education, but she had another side. During her time with Hamed, she converted to Islam and developed an interest in spiritualism, mysticism and other cultures. The name Kadamba means "flower of enlightenment" and, after she visited India, friends detected a change in her outlook. They describe how she returned to London and began embracing beggars in the street and sensed that she was beginning to find the party life rather empty.

On a trip to Goa, she met the man who was to kill her. Malka had been discharged from the Israeli Army after serving less than half of his compulsory national service.

Friends said he was sensitive youth who was interested in spiritualism and shared Miss Simmons's love of India. It was not surprising, they said, that the couple should have become holiday lovers.

After Goa, they were briefly together in Berlin, before Miss Simmons returned home.

Her sister, Kumari, 21, said: "He would do romantic things for her. Every morning, he would put flowers round her pillow." Malka would also make her fresh fruit salads with strawberries cut into heart shapes.

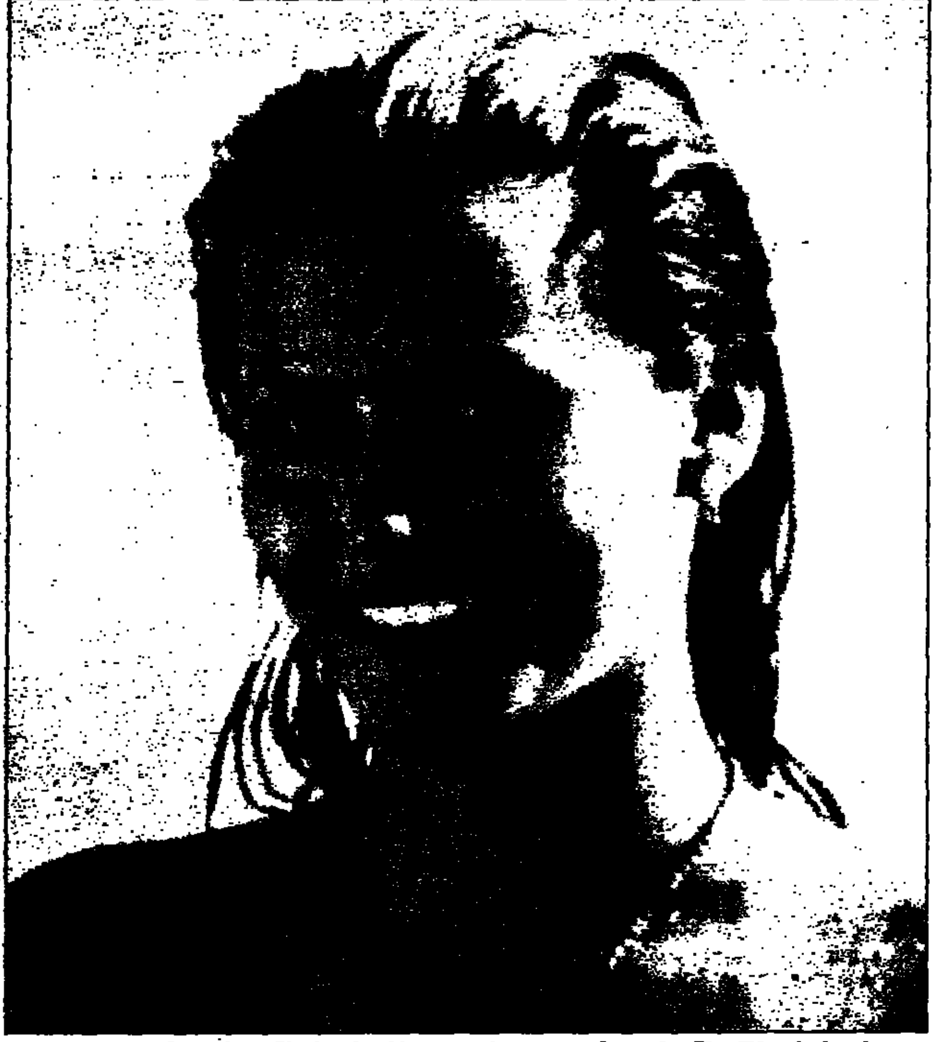
She remained fond of him, but, away from India, her feelings for him subsided. The former soldier, however, was obsessed. He bombarded her with telephone calls from Germany and eventually followed her to England, arriving last June with armfuls of luggage and £3,000.

He told immigration officials that he intended to marry her and swept her off her feet when she met him. Miss Simmons had arranged to borrow a friend's flat in Islington, North London, perhaps hoping to break it to Malka gently that their relationship was finished. The night before she was killed she told her father, John: "He is a loser. I don't want to end up with a loser." The next morning she was dead.

Her naked body was found hanging in the shower. To make it appear as if he, too, had tried to kill himself, Malka left behind a trail of blood, knives and a cocktail of pills. He claimed that the couple had agreed on a suicide pact because they could not stay together.

Malik told police: "I have killed my angel."

URBAN EYE



Dreams of stardom: Kadamba Simmons in a scene from the film *Wonderland*

Skiers are cleared of avalanche negligence

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

THREE British skiers who strayed into a high-risk avalanche area were acquitted by a French court yesterday of endangering lives by negligence.

The men were charged after a series of avalanches triggered by reckless skiers. Prosecutors had urged jail sentences, to deter irresponsible behaviour on the slopes.

Guy MacBride, 37, of Windsor; Jonathan Fairley, 38, of Marlow, Buckinghamshire; and Paul Crowther, 34, of Willesden, North London: were trapped on a Val-d'Isère black run in February.

They said they were disoriented by bad weather. Rescuers guided them to safety by shouting instructions through a loudhailer. Shortly afterwards the area was engulfed by an avalanche.

The businessmen repaid the £350 cost of the rescue operation. They were not in court to hear the verdict.

Fight expulsion, peers told

Hereditaries are urged to back protest at 'flawed' Lords reform, report **James Landale** and **Mark Inglefield**

HEREDITARY peers were urged yesterday to resist their expulsion from the House of Lords until they had ensured that a better second chamber would succeed them.

Lord Cobbold, an hereditary crossbencher, told the Lords: "Before allowing ourselves to be ejected from the House, I believe we have a paramount duty to the British people to satisfy ourselves that a successor second Chamber will be better, more efficient, more democratic, more representative, more effective and more respected than the House is today."

Lord Cobbold was speaking during the first day of a two-day second reading debate on the House of Lords Bill, which will scrap hereditary peers' right to sit and vote. More than 180 peers have put their names down to speak.

Before a packed House, Lord Cobbold urged peers to back his amendment to the Bill during a vote later tonight. The amendment, which has no legislative impact, "regrets that the Bill radically alters the historic composition of the House of Lords for party political advantage, without consultation or consensus on the successor House's role and composition and without making it more democratic". Lord Cobbold insisted he was not against reform but complained that it was being rushed. "What really sticks in our throats is being summarily removed from the House without prior public consultation or consensus as to the future House's role and composition," he said.

"If hereditary membership of the House has any value it must surely be as the longstop guardian of the British constitution and the rights and liberties of her people."

Baroness Jay of Paddington, the Leader of the Lords, said the Bill marked a "profound change which the Government feels is long overdue". It was, she said, "an historic document" which was "simple and straightforward".

It made clear, she said, that "no one can inherit a preordained, reserved seat in this House. Membership must be a jealously protected individual privilege."

She said: "In this Chamber we still confront an ossified system whose days were numbered in the 1900s. In this, the last few months of the 20th century, the Government believes we must finally close the political chapter of the 19th."

She said: "The British are justly proud that we have often led the world in establishing the principles and practice of good government. But we are now alone amongst advanced democracies in permitting hereditary membership of Parliament. I am not encouraged to discover that the only other parliamentary assembly which has a system anything like your Lordships' House is the Lesotho Senate." Some 22 of the 33-strong Lesotho senate are hereditary tribal chiefs.

> 'What sticks in our throats is being removed without consultation or consensus as to the future'
> — *Lord Cobbold*

Lord Strathclyde, the Tory leader, said it was absurd to debate the Bill in its current form because it did not contain the so-called Weatherill amendment. This deal, which will be introduced during the Bill's committee stage in April, would allow some 91 hereditary peers to stay on temporarily.

"Am I the only one in this House who believes there is something perfectly ludicrous in what we are doing today?," Lord Strathclyde said. "We are in Wonderland where nothing is quite what it seems."

He declared: "This whole saga has an air of unreality to it and no one knows quite where it will all end." Lord Strathclyde said the Tories would allow the Bill to have a second reading. But he said the Tories would back Lord Cobbold's amendment.

He challenged the Government's claim that it was making the Lords more democratic and representative. "Where's the democracy in a letter from the Prime Minister dispensing his patronage? For 'ancient privilege', read 'modern patronage'."

Lord Rodgers of Quarry Bank, the Liberal Democrat leader, criticised the Bill and the Weatherill amendment. He said the proposal was "riddled with anomalies" and asked whether it would mean a "self-perpetuating block" of hereditary peers with a right to "constant replenishment".

Lord Carrington, a hereditary peer and former Tory Foreign Secretary, backed a wholly elected chamber. "Some of us hereditary peers believe some of the noble lords who sit opposite (on the government benches) and who are basically placemen of the Labour Prime Minister are no more qualified to sit in this House than we are," he said.

He said the Government's plans would result in a "mishmash of nominated, elected and no doubt a sprinkling of religious leaders, and it will all be a sort of muddle".

Lord Richard, the Labour leader in the lords, said the new second chamber should be partly elected and partly nominated. "It would have enough legitimacy to do its job, but not enough to challenge the Commons," he said. "In reforming the second chamber, our aim should be to strengthen Parliament as a whole." Lord Richard said the objective of a new second chamber would be to "reduce or counterbalance that centralised power".

Letters, page 19

ASHLEY COOMBES



Lord Cobbold at home at Knebworth House: his amendment will be voted on tonight

Like father, not like son

FOR Nicholas and Alexander Monson, yesterday's debate was a tantalising yet poignant taste of what might have been.

Father and son watched as peers debated the finer points of the constitution, joining several other eldest sons of hereditary peers, most of whom exercised their little-known right to sit on the steps of the Throne to listen. They were all acutely aware that they were watching their ancient birthrights begin to pass into history. Nicholas, 43, had until recently expected to succeed his father and become the 12th Baron Monson.

And he in turn had expected his son, Alexander, 15, to succeed him to the title which dates since 1728. Monsons have served monarchs for even longer: one ancestor, John, was Henry V's quartermaster at Agincourt.

To mark the day when the Bill arrived in the Lords, Nicholas treated his son to lunch with his grandparents in the Lords. Although he recognises that hereditary peers should probably go, he mourns their passing with some emotion. "I did feel a certain frisson run through me as the debate went on," he said. "We were clearly attending our swansong."

No one knows how long the right has existed. But eldest sons are encouraged to listen to debates as a sort of political apprenticeship.

NEWS IN BRIEF

ID card 'revolution' in public services

PEOPLE will soon be able to use personal identity cards to buy car tax, driving, television and fishing licences, or to complete tax returns and birth certificates. Jack Cunningham, Minister for the Cabinet Office, will announce today that smartcards will offer people a better deal.

Within five years ministers expect that more than half of all contacts between officialdom and the public will be dealt with electronically. People will be able to use libraries, supermarkets, schools, digital televisions or home computers for their business with central and local government — from paying council tax to finding out benefit entitlement. Marking today's launch of the long-awaited *Modernising Government* White Paper, Dr Cunningham confirmed: "Smartcards will be part of the process. But they won't be compulsory."

BBC loses listeners

MPs were told that the decision to move the main parliamentary coverage on Radio 4 has cost the BBC more than 3 million listeners. Denis MacShane (Lab, Rotherham) wrote to Sir Christopher Bland, the BBC chairman, to protest that moving *Yesterday in Parliament* from the *Today* programme to long wave only has cut its audience from 3.13 million to 830,000. *The Week in Westminster* is down from 658,000 to 227,000 after moving to Thursday evenings.

Child poverty trap

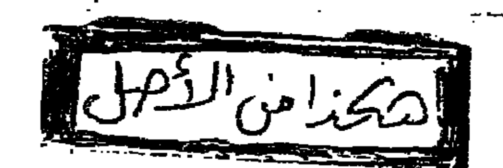
Two in five children in the UK are born into poverty, a Treasury report shows. It adds that the number living in households with less than half the average income has tripled in the last 20 years to four million. Up to 25 per cent never escape poverty. Men whose fathers were unemployed are twice as likely to be unemployed for a year or more between 23 and 33. The Government has pledged to wipe out child poverty within 20 years. Letters, page 19

Tories' healthy option

The Tories have put forward plans for a significant extension of private healthcare backed by tax relief for insurance and health savings plans. Alan Duncan, Shadow Health Minister, argued that the NHS was unable on its own to meet the demands put on it. In a speech to the Social Market Foundation in London, he argued that the private sector and individuals should make a much bigger contribution to healthcare.

Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe

A report (Tony's cronies stay at home, February 23) criticising the poor voting record of some Labour life peers was accompanied by a table showing voting records. Lord Brooke was named as one of the peers with the worst records. In fact, he has been seriously ill and undergoing intensive medical treatment (including two operations) since May 1998, but nevertheless has voted in more than 40 per cent of divisions. We are happy to put the record straight and apologise for the distress and embarrassment caused to Lord Brooke.



Theatre is poor show for young, says Ayckbourn

Playwright urges companies to stage more work for children, reports Dalya Alberge

THE playwright Sir Alan Ayckbourn yesterday accused the Royal National and Royal Shakespeare theatres of "ghettoising" children with "a nice Christmas show" and education programmes.

Sir Alan, 59, whose work is played in more than 50 countries and in 35 languages, and who has written 11 dramas for children, said that activities for British children paled against those in Germany and Russia. His own plays for children had had more stagings in Germany than here.

He called for the national companies to stage three or four plays a year to inspire tomorrow's audiences with the "magic" of the live performance. "We are disgraceful in our provision for children", he said. "We have an appalling record."

He pointed out that Britain's two specialist children's theatres — Polka and Unicorn — had just had their grants cut. As their patron, he had written to their local authorities, pleading with them to reverse the decisions.

For children, he said, theatres in Britain "indulge in some awful pantomime where the kids have no clue what's going on and their fathers are sniggering away". Stagings of *The Teletubbies* or *Postman Pat* were fine for the very young, but by the age of six — "the Winnie-the-Pooh phase" — children wanted some "serious narrative".

Sir Alan was speaking before tonight's premiere of his latest play for young people, *Gizmo*, a futuristic comedy about a young barman who witnesses a murder.

Gizmo is being performed as part of the annual BT National Connections youth programme, which is sponsored with £600,000 from BT. Some 150 groups selected from schools, youth theatre groups and colleges from as far afield as Inverness and Plymouth, will perform new plays by 12 writers under the guidance of the National theatre and the writers themselves. Sir Alan's play is being shown in Nottingham before touring ten venues around the country, ending on the National's Olivier stage this summer.

Such initiatives, he said, were all the more important because children were otherwise neglected. While he applauded education programmes, "they are using theatre as a teaching instrument. I'm talking about the theatre as pure and simple entertainment, where they come into a building and share a perception with a common audience."

New work for children tended to be relegated to inexperienced actors straight out of drama school. "If you want to attract an audience under 12, you have to address them far more seriously."

Writers, he said, wrote for two reasons: money and recognition. In Britain, they did not benefit from either. When he wrote an "adult" play, he received "nice coverage". "I wrote a kid's show at Christmas, which I thought was equally interesting, and nobody came." If that was the attitude, there was little incentive for an unknown dramatist to waste time on children.

Writing for children was no different than for adults, he said. He calls his works family plays, saying that the best writing should speak to adults and children. With even the most complex stories, "kids will follow you anywhere". Last year's play, *The Boy Who Fell Into a Book*, was "very complicated and they loved that. There is no point in writing down to them."

A spokeswoman for the National theatre said that Trevor Nunn, its artistic director, was "very conscious that children of that age range should be catered for".

FUTURE IS ORANGE FOR 20 WRITERS

SEVEN first-time novelists have been shortlisted for the £30,000 Orange Prize (Dalya Alberge writes).

A shortlist of 20 was drawn up from 129 novels submitted by publishers for a prize that is restricted to women writing in English — whatever the nationality. Only six of the shortlisted authors are British; they include Beryl Bainbridge. Most are American. The winner is announced on June 8.

Two of the seven debut novelists have written works about lesbians. Julia Darling's *Crocodile Soup*, said Lola Young, who chaired the jury, stood out as a humorous novel: "Overall, the entry didn't include a lot of laughs." She had liked the book because it made a lesbian relationship "a normal, everyday thing". This was "a story about unrequited love. It has a dry, ironic tone."

Jackie Kay's *Trumpet* was the tale of "a black male trumpet-player who everyone assumed was a man" until he/she falls in love and has to "confess he's a female".


DENZIL McNEELANCE

Anna Maxted, whose father's death inspired her romantic comedy on bereavement

How just 40 pages secured a £250,000 book deal

By Dalya Alberge

A FIRST novel has been signed up by a publisher on the strength of just 40 sheets of A4 paper in a deal worth more than £250,000. Andy McKillop, publishing director of Arrow Books, was so impressed by Anna Maxted's writing in *Getting Over It* that he beat off competition from four other publishers in hard-fought bidding at last weekend's International Bookfair.

He is believed to have paid for a two-book deal secured by Jonny Geller, director of Curtis Brown, the literary agent. "Her voice is completely brilliant and compelling," Mr McKillop said yesterday.

The novel is a romantic comedy about a woman coming to terms with the death of her father and a crumbling relationship with her boyfriend. Louise Allen-Jones, who represents foreign publishers in acquiring manuscripts long before publication, said that for a publisher to buy a novel on the basis of so little material was very rare.

Maxted, 29, from North London, is a contributing editor at *Cosmopolitan* and her literary inspiration ranges from Jane Austen to Maeve Binchy. After reading English at Cambridge she embarked on a career as a journalist on the *Jewish Chronicle*, moving to the *Sunday Mirror*. She is married to a journalist from the magazine *Loaded*.

The idea of the novel was sparked by the death of her father, an accountant, two years ago. She recalled how, when she wrote a column for *Cosmopolitan*, it moved colleagues to say, "You ought to write a novel about this." Before that, she said, "I never thought I was capable of writing a novel."

Thinkers try to land a punch on the 'real Ali'

By Adam Sherwin

THE United States Embassy became an intellectual boxing ring yesterday as academics traded blows at Britain's first seminar on the significance of Muhammad Ali.

The debate began with a speculative jab from the Freudian camp. Christopher Brookeman, of the University of Westminster, said that Ali had constructed a personality that mocked different black stereotypes — such as the clown or sadist — that were then dominant in the American psyche. By donning such "masks", he said, Ali could "float like a butterfly, sting like a bee".

Professor John C. Walter, from the University of Washington, Seattle, countered with his view of an "egalitarian Ali", an analysis rooted in Alexis de Tocqueville's vision of an America that honours talent without racial bias. "Ali became the quintessential American because he was a successful braggard. When he said an opponent was going down in round four, he did, and America is a society which progresses by the achievement of stated outcomes," Professor Walter said. Even Ali's conversion to Islam, he said, was eventually understood by Americans as a response to racial discrimination.

But Mary O' Reilly, who is researching American cultural history at Liverpool John Moores University, preferred an "aesthetic Ali". "When Ali knocked out George Foreman in the Rumble in the Jungle, he didn't follow up his punch because he would have disturbed the beauty of Foreman's fall," she said.

T.J. Dowling, the US cultural attaché, said that such official recognition for Ali would have been impossible when he was sentenced to jail for avoiding the draft: "He was forcing Americans to deal with a lot of issues back then. Now we have come to understand him as a great American."

Cheaper homes 'are the key to rural revival'

Valerie Elliott reports on a call for tax breaks and planning changes to reverse fall in low-cost housing

TAX incentives could be used to encourage an increase in affordable homes in rural communities, the chairman of the new Countryside Agency said yesterday.

Ewen Cameron said this was one of the ideas being considered by the agency to tackle a growing shortage of homes to buy or rent, and to help to revive dying rural villages.

Other ideas under consideration by the new body, which brings together the work of the Rural Development Commission and the Countryside Commission, were a new national hotline to publicise rural transport services and greater use of postal, school and company buses to help people living in isolated communities — particularly the jobless and low-paid — to get to the nearest towns.

Mr Cameron is determined that countryside issues are given top priority within the Government. He is also keen to ensure that Whitehall departments introduce "rural-proofing" in every new policy, so that their impact on rural communities will automatically be taken into account.

He met Tony Blair in his Sedgefield constituency ten days ago and they agreed that greater focus should be given to the problems of the rural economy and to social exclusion in isolated areas and market towns. Mr Blair is keen to preserve the countryside, but he made it clear to Mr Cameron that he believes that greater attention should be given to providing leisure and amenity opportunities for people who live in urban areas.

Mr Cameron, publicising the agency's snapshot of life in the countryside of today, indicated that he did not expect the Government's plans to give the public greater access to the countryside to be controversial. He emphasised that farmers and landowners would be told of the benefits of the extra tourism to their areas.

He appeared keen to defuse the row over hunting, which he said he regarded as a marginal item on the agency's agenda. He said: "I don't hunt and have no real desire to hunt, but it does play a part in the social and economic pattern of rural life. I believe that it is more an animal ethics issue and is not something that we should put high on our agenda."

He made clear that the lack of affordable housing was a priority for the agency. Young people and families were being priced out of the market and left without any low-cost alternatives to help them to maintain a life in the countryside.

Mr Cameron said he did not believe that building a large number of council houses was the answer to the problem. He called for more imaginative solutions to create more social housing — including tax incentives to encourage farmers and landowners to convert properties to let. He also wants local authorities to work in closer partnership with private property developers and housing associations.

He suggested that planning officers should be lobbied to refuse permission for new clusters of detached, "executive" homes in villages and to approve only plans that included a larger number of cheaper houses.

The housing crisis facing countryside communities is reflected in statistics showing that 91,000 rural homes were lost from the low-cost rented sector in the five years between 1985 and 1990, and that two thirds of young families in the countryside cannot afford to buy a home.

Mr Cameron said that the shortage of affordable housing had followed the right-to-buy legislation introduced under the Thatcher Governments. "I am not saying that right-to-buy was a disaster for those who bought their homes, but it has caused a shortage of let housing."

Richard Wakeford, chief executive of the new agency, added: "When development land becomes available in villages, people should ask themselves whether it is right to let that land go for four or five executive homes, when the site could take ten to 15 houses for people of more modest means."

He also suggested that the agency did not consider green belt land bordering urban areas as wholly sacrosarict and that it would look at the use of this land. While, in most cases, it should remain undeveloped, Mr Wakefield said: "It may be that taking green belt close to public transport is a better way forward than the alternative of going beyond it, deep into countryside, that may be in an area of outstanding natural beauty, to build homes."

The new agency is to focus on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the English countryside and champion the rural dimension at all levels, from Brussels to the smallest parish council, in business and in the voluntary sector.

COUNTRY LIFE

- ☐ 88 per cent of all land in Britain is countryside
- ☐ One in five people (9.3 million) lives in a rural area
- ☐ 42 per cent of rural parishes had no shop in 1997; 43 per cent had no post office; 83 per cent had no GP based in parish
- ☐ 49 per cent had no school (for any age); 75 per cent had no daily bus service
- ☐ 84 per cent of rural households have a car (69 per cent nationally)
- ☐ There are more deaths on rural roads (55 per cent, compared with 41 per cent on urban roads and 4 per cent on motorways)
- ☐ Women's Institutes and Mothers' Unions were the most common community activities (found in 59 per cent of parishes; 39 per cent had football clubs)



Jacklyn Sheedy, left, and Liz Snook, after the case. They said there would be more "direct action" against GM crops

Protesters are cleared over gene crop raid

By Susie Steiner

THE public backlash against genetically modified crops has helped to clear two environmental protesters who destroyed a field of experimental maize.

Jacklyn Sheedy, 33, and Elizabeth Snook, 22, were awarded costs at Plymouth Crown Court despite having caused an estimated £44,000 of damage to the genetically modified maize crop in Devon last August.

The women's lawyer told the court that they had acted reasonably because they believed there was an imminent risk of cross-pollination with crops planted 200 metres away on an organic farm.

The Crown Prosecution Service offered no evidence against them. Andrew Oldland, for the prosecution, admitted that "unfolding events", including a swing in public opinion against genetically modified foods, had contributed to the decision not to pursue the case.

Outside the court, Ms Sheedy, from Finsbury Park, North London, was cheered by about 200 supporters, some of them dressed as vegetables. She said that the charges had been dropped because the Establishment "could not afford to put genetic engineering on trial", and gave warning that protesters would take "further action" against GM crops.

Ms Snook, from Pinner, northwest London, said that the decision was clearly "based on the political climate. This indicates that direct action is effective and justified."

Mr Oldland had earlier told the court that abandoning the case did not set a precedent. "Any future acts of criminal damage in similar circumstances will be considered on their merits," he said.

The raid involving Ms Snook and Ms Sheedy came after weeks of protest about GM crops being planted near an organic farm at Staverton.

The National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB) had planted the maize last May as a test in conjunction with Sharpes International Seeds, a part-owned subsidiary of the biotechnology company Zeneca. The site is managed by the NIAB on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Guy Watson, the owner of the neighbouring organic farm, feared that his £20,000 sweetcorn crop would be contaminated by the GM maize and that his farm would lose its organic status.

He sought a judicial review of the Government's failure to halt the crop trial in July. The three judges ruled that they were powerless to intervene.

On August 3, about 30 people wearing protective clothing raided the trial site and pulled up the plants, which were due to pollinate the following week. Ms Sheedy and Ms Snook were among 12 people arrested. They were charged with causing damage to the maize. The others were released on police bail and are unlikely to face charges.

Map of Britain catches up with reality

By Nick Nuttall
Environment Correspondent

MAPS of Britain are to be updated in a £42 million project by the Ordnance Survey, after falling up to ten years behind changes in the landscape.

The update could help to settle areas of conflict between ramblers and landowners under the right-to-roam legislation, and to identify disused urban sites to reduce home-building in the countryside.

The mapping will involve taking 65,000 aerial images a year, with cameras triggered by global-positioning satellites so that the images can be matched with unprecedented accuracy. Geoff Robinson, the director-general of the Ordnance Survey, admitted that some maps were up to ten years behind in remote moorland areas and several years behind in other rural and some urban locations.

The blame for delay is being put on cash contraints by the last Government in the early 1990s. The new spending of £42 million was announced yesterday by Nick Raynsford, the Environment Minister.

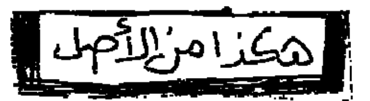
Britain's landscape was changing faster than at any time in history, Mr Robinson said. "Over the past 30 to 40 years we have seen thousands of miles of railways disappear to be replaced by thousands of miles of trunk roads. Hundreds of pits have disappeared, to be replaced by hundreds of shopping malls. We have seen tower blocks go up and tower blocks come down."

The new data is being made available online and it is planned to update this daily. An electronic archive of the changing landscape is being developed for historians and geographers. The survey is also making more use of Gaelic and Welsh placenames.

The aerial mapping will be orchestrated from Blackpool airport, as it is near the geographic centre of Britain.

NET LINKS

www.o-s.co.uk/homepage/main.htm for the Ordnance Survey website



'Hated' US atheist feared murdered

FBI pursues new clues in three-year riddle of a family that disappeared, writes Ian Brodie in Washington

THE mystery of America's leading atheist, missing for more than three years, may soon be resolved.

Madalyn Murray O'Hair once proudly described herself as the most hated woman in America. She was loathed by Christian fundamentalists for her pivotal role in the 1960s legal battles over the separation of church and state.

She was one of the parties in the lawsuit leading to the Supreme Court's historic 1963 ruling that banned organised prayer from all state-run schools.

In September 1995, she vanished, aged 76, from the headquarters of her organisation, American Atheists Inc., along with her son, John Garth Murray, then 44, and her granddaughter, Robin Murray, then 31.

Also missing were gold coins worth half a million dollars (£308,000), property of the O'Hair family. The trio left a note on their office door in Austin, Texas, saying an emergency had arisen. They were supposed to attend a protest in New York but never arrived.

By the time she disappeared, Mrs O'Hair's fame was losing its lustre. She had been ill and was frustrated over her forlorn efforts to regain the political prominence she had once enjoyed.

There was endless speculation over what had happened to her. It was discovered that after leaving Austin she apparently spent a month in San Antonio, before finally dropping out of sight. Many wondered if she had scooped up her organisation's funds and gone abroad. Detectives conducted a fruitless global search. There were jokes about whether, as an atheist, she had met her Maker.

Now the authorities are actively investigating whether she and the others were victims of a robbery, kidnap and murder plot.

The FBI has taken into custody David Waters, 52, a former manager in Mrs O'Hair's office, for having a cache of 119 rounds of ammunition in his flat, an alleged offence because Mr Waters has a conviction for murder.

Far more intriguing, though, was a statement by Mr Waters's lawyer, Patrick Ganne, who said the federal agents suspected his client of being part of a plot to rob and murder Mrs O'Hair. Mr Ganne disclosed that a federal prosecutor had told him that agents had questioned others with knowledge of Mrs O'Hair's disappearance who were pointing fingers at Mr Waters. The lawyer said he was warned: "People are rolling over on your client and he better get right with God."

Yesterday the FBI revealed that a second ex-felon had been arrested for having two loaded handguns in his flat. He is Gary Karr, 50, who once served time in prison with Waters in Illinois and was released four months before the O'Hair family vanished.

In another twist to the mystery, agents have reopened the murder case of Danny Fry, who died soon after a visit to Mr Waters at about the time the O'Hairs went missing. He had told his family he was working on a big money deal with Mr Waters. His body, without hands and head, was discovered in October 1995 east of Dallas, but was identified by DNA only last January.

Mr Waters had pleaded guilty to stealing $54,000 from Mrs O'Hair's office, but he denies any knowledge of the killing of Mr Fry or the family's disappearance. He was quoted as saying he believed Mrs O'Hair and her missing relatives had gone into hiding. "I think they have kicked back somewhere, very comfortable and having chuckles."

DAVID BRESLAUER / AP



Mrs O'Hair with her son and granddaughter before their disappearance in 1995

Paraguay ruler quits

By Gabriella Gamini, South America correspondent

TENS of thousands of Paraguayans flooded on to the streets of the capital Asunción yesterday to celebrate the resignation of the embattled President, Raúl Cubas. He was replaced by the head of the Senate, Luis González Macchi, after a week of violent political turmoil.

The city's central plaza, which last week saw gun battles among opponents and supporters of the President and the deaths of four students, was filled with 60,000 people who danced and sang the national anthem. Blue-and-white flags, honking cars and a cascade of fireworks marked the beginning of celebrations as President Cubas announced he would step down.

Yesterday afternoon the party was still going, with thousands more joining festivities in the streets around the colonial Congress building. Firefighters on horseback cooled the crowds. Señor Cubas stepped down only hours before the Senate was due to announce a verdict on his impeachment trial, in which he was accused of misuse of power. He was charged with ignoring a supreme court ruling when he released his political ally and former coup leader, Lino Oviedo, from prison. Señor Cubas does not admit wrongdoing, but said he resigned to ensure an end to political upheaval. General Oviedo, the former army chief who staged a foiled coup in 1996 and was sentenced to ten years in jail, was arrested as he tried to flee to Argentina.



Cubas: no admission of wrongdoing

Violent anti-Cubas protests and widespread public demands for his resignation had been triggered after the assassination of his Vice-President and outspoken rival, Luis María Argana. Señor Argana was killed when four hooded gunmen sprayed his car with bullets last Tuesday.

Thousands had gathered in the central plaza in protest at the killing. The demonstration turned into street battles and supporters of President Cubas were accused of firing into a crowd of Argana supporters, leaving four dead. Señor Macchi, who will be President until elections are held within three months, last night indicated that he would return General Oviedo to prison.

WORLD SUMMARY

88 perish in Himalayan earthquake

Rudraprayag: At least 88 people were killed when an earthquake and aftershocks jolted India's Himlayan foothills before dawn. The quake, which was felt across parts of northern India, western Nepal and southern China, brought houses tumbling down on thousands of people as they slept. It was the second time in eight years that the remote area has been hit by a severe quake. At least 1,600 people died in 1991 when a tremor measuring 6.6 on the Richter scale hit the Uttarkashi region of Uttar Pradesh. *(Reuters)*

Hutu confesses

Kampala: Ugandan troops killed 18 Rwandan Hutu rebels in Virunga National Park, eastern Congo, and captured four, one of whom admitted taking part in killing eight foreign tourists, four of them British, in southwestern Uganda earlier this month, Colonel Benon Biraaro said. *(AP)*

Cuban defeat

Havana: President Castro shrugged off a loss by Cuba's national team to the US Baltimore Orioles in the first round of "baseball diplomacy" between the nations. Both flags waved and anthems resounded as 50,000 fans saw Cuba's team beaten 3-2 in extra innings. *(AFP)*

Eta peace move

Madrid: Eta, the Basque separatist group, plans to suspend its campaign of street violence on April 4, the Basque national day, two Spanish newspapers said. There have been no killings since Eta declared a truce in September, but its youth groups continue to use terrorist tactics. *(Reuters)*

Greens see red

Sydney: The environmental group Greenpeace has asked a court to order the Olympics Co-ordinating Authority to stop styling the 2000 Olympics as the Green Games because it says that an ozone-depleting chemical will be used in the cooling system at one of the venues.

Pilot 'guilty'

Norfolk, Virginia: Captain Joseph Schweitzer, a Marine navigator whose jet cut a ski gondola cable killing 20 people in Italy last year, has agreed to plead guilty to obstruction and conspiracy charges. *(AP)*

High and wet

Zurich: An alpine rescue helicopter saved a repairman stranded up a 135ft flagpole on a castle in Oensingen. The man got stuck after rain made the descent perilous. *(Reuters)*

Salvaging a future with music

A car crash has left musician Rupert Johnston with serious brain damage and the mind of a child, but his remarkable gift for playing the French horn has survived and gives him hope. Susan Elkin reports

A restless young man, blind in one eye, waits on the pavement with the pent-up agitation of a young child. He is 20. I'm not late but he is anxious about visitors. He has little sense of time and he has been waiting for several hours.

"Hello," he says, his voice slightly slurred. Wrenching open my car door, he pats me affectionately on the shoulder before the wheels have stopped turning.

"I'm-Rupert-Johnston-and-I'm-pleased-to-meet-you," he chants mechanically, like a toddler who has learnt a phrase off pat.

Indoors I ask him to play his French horn. Reluctantly and rather crossly he tosses off part of the first movement of Mozart's Second Concerto. Like David Helfgott, the schizophrenic pianist who is the subject of the film *Shine*, Rupert can play very well on a concert platform, although he is inclined to be silly in an informal situation.

"Disinhibition", caused by brain injury, means that he doesn't worry about difficult notes and passages. He just attacks them. Like Helfgott, Rupert's effortless playing seems curiously at odds with the rest of his behaviour.

> 'Some say he plays better than before his accident'

Two years ago Rupert was an outstanding first-year student at Guildhall School of Music. A glittering career as a solo and orchestral horn player lay before him.

Then came a near-fatal road accident in February 1997 which left him so badly brain-damaged that, after 18 months in hospital, he needs constant supervision, patiently repeated instructions, regular visits from social services and lessons from a special-needs tutor.

Yet he can still play his horn with remarkable panache, even to the extent of sight-reading and memorising new pieces. "Some experts say that he plays even better now than he did before the accident," says his mother Gill, who, like her husband David, is a music teacher. Last year Rupert was highly commended in the Paxman competition. This year he has worked his way through two rounds of the Shell LSSO competition to reach the semi-finals.

So what happened on February 7 1997? Gill describes Rupert's impetuous overnight trip in his Citroën BX from his home in Harpenden in Hertfordshire to Wells in Somerset, where he had been a pupil at the Cathedral School until the previous summer. "The police arrived here early the next morning to tell us that at about 5am Rupert had driven full tilt, without braking, into the back of a Spanish lorry at the intersection of the M25 and the M1," she says.

The cause remains a mystery. The police ruled out alcohol, although Rupert had drunk a few beers the evening before. Gill suspects that he might have been changing a tape. Perhaps he fell asleep. Rupert does not remember anything about the accident.

The police and the paramedics at the scene thought that he was dead. The front of his head and face were smashed in the impact. Nonetheless they attempted resuscitation and he was breathing with assistance on arrival at Hemel Hempstead Hospital. The Johnstons were told to gather the rest of the family. Rupert was not expected to live through the day and, because of the severe disfiguring bruising, his mother was advised not to go into the intensive-care room to look at her son. It was evening before she did so.

All the time that Gill is speaking, Rupert is wandering childishly and aimlessly in and out of the room mumbling. "I don't think the photographer's coming. I want to go outside. Do you think the photographer really will come? I want a sandwich. Where's that photographer?" All this over and over again.

"Rupert, why don't you go on the PlayStation for a while?" Gill says with careful brightness. Or: "I know what you could do. You could make a cup of coffee." A family friend oversees the coffee-making.

The activity passes another minute or two until the relentless interruptions and demands begin again. Like a brooding caged animal, Rupert is never still for more than a few seconds. Each time his mother refuses a request and tries to distract him, he flounces out cursing. The next minute he's cuddling her on the sofa, holding her hand. When the photographer appears in a Saab 900, Rupert has to be bribed with the prospect of a ride in it — and allowed to have a go with the camera — as an incentive to co-operate.

So what was Rupert like before the accident? "A typical horn player," Gill says with a grin. "Rebellious and awkward, wilful and born to fight."

The day after the accident Rupert was transferred to a specialist hospital: Atkinson Morley's in Wimbledon, part of St George's Hospital. There he had a series of high-risk operations and procedures to reconstruct his face and to correct various leaks, imbalances and complications, including pneumonia and MRSA, the so-called "superbug".

"His chances of survival were slim," says Anthony Bell, Professor of Neurosurgery at Atkinson Morley's. "On admission he was in a poor state after the journey. One eye was obviously damaged beyond repair. He was in a coma and had bilateral frontal lobe damage." This means that the front of Rupert's brain above the eyes was damaged on both sides. "Normally we use only about 20 per cent of our brain," Professor Bell explains. "So if only one hemisphere is injured the other will often compensate." But in Rupert's case the damage was bilateral. "I've screwed my brain up," as Rupert himself says.

So how has his musical ability survived more or less intact? "It's a good illustration of how different parts of the brain are responsible for different functions," says Professor Bell.

"Music is thought to reside in the temporal lobes that are farther back behind the eyes and above the ears. Although Rupert had some damage to speech, which is controlled by the brain stem, and to the pituitary gland, which secretes a vital hormone that controls water levels in the body, along with multiple fractures to the face and frontal lobe damage that leads to his petulant, childish behaviour patterns, the temporal lobes escaped."

Gill recalls the first indication of this. Rupert was very ill and being ventilated via a tracheotomy. His parents played him a Mozart concerto through headphones. At the same time they put his horn in his lap because doctors had asked them to bring him familiar objects. When he heard the music Rupert's fingers automatically began to reach for the familiar notes.

Later, during a miserable two months in a secure unit at Maudsley Hospital in South London, Gill found Rupert, who by then had been taught to walk again, trailing the corridor banging the wall with his horn, which was too heavy for him to lift. "He was pitifully disorientated," she says. "He was looking for his rehearsal because he thought he was on a music course."

What is his future? "We cling to the hope that he might still be able to do something as a soloist," says his mother. "He'll never manage the discipline and teamwork needed for ensemble playing." Then she puts on a pre-accident CD of Rupert playing impeccably: the seamless phrasing of a former chorister, extraordinarily rich golden tone and total concentrated poise.

The line between sensibly encouraging Rupert to do the only thing that he might still excel at and putting him on stage as a Helfgott-style freak is a fine one. "Yes, we are conscious of the dangers," says Gill soberly, "but music is the only thing we can see that could possibly give him any kind of future. It's his only chance."

● *The Johnston family is trying to raise £30,000 for a neuroscience research post for one year. Donations to: Neurosciences Research Foundation, Atkinson Morley's Hospital, Copse Hill, Wimbledon, London SW20 0NE; 0181-946 7711.*


SIMON BROOKE-WEBB

Despite terrible head injuries, the area of Rupert Johnston's brain that controls his musical ability remains undamaged

Sexist, snobbish and very painful

MEDICINE CHEST
DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

A review in the journal *Prescriber* is a reminder of the variety of treatments available for an acute attack of gouty arthritis, and of the measures that can be taken to prevent such attacks.

Gout has such a strong place in history and in literature that the wisdom of Dr Terence Gibson of the Department of Rheumatology at Guy's Hospital in London in this review cannot do justice to the disease, the pain of which inspired John Milton to write *Paradise Lost* and formed the basis for so many jokes, cartoons and stories in Victorian Britain.

Gout is no laughing matter for the middle-aged, middle-class, well-heeled, well-covered victim. The pain can be excruciating. The attack usually begins suddenly and the joint is often red, swollen and exquisitely tender as well as painful. In 75 per cent of cases, the big-toe joint is involved — but any of the joints of the lower limb may be affected, including the small joints of the feet and toes, and the knees. It is a myth to think that gout cannot affect any joint in the upper limb and that big joints are never ravaged by it.

The pain is not always worthy of *Paradise Lost*. Sometimes it causes only an unpleasant twinge in one or more joints of the feet, particularly in the morning after a good party involving plenty of alcohol and rich food. There are few diseases that discriminate against the better-off, but gout is one. It is also sexist: it is rare — some doctors would say extraordinary — for a premenopausal woman to suffer from gouty arthritis, even though she may have a raised level of uric acid in her blood. In older age groups both sexes are targeted, albeit men more often than women.

Gout is caused by an inherited abnormality in the metabolism of uric acid. This can cause the depositing of needle-sharp sodium urate crystals in the joint fluid. Uric acid metabolites may also be deposited in the ears, where they give rise to white, chalky lumps — so-called tophi — or in the urinary tract, where gout is one of the causes of urinary stones.

Although an acute attack of gouty arthritis is often precipitated by gluttonous eating or drinking, particularly if preceded by starvation (therefore never do without breakfast, lunch and tea before an evening party), it is also engendered by certain medication, including small doses of aspirin and diuretics. Gout can also be induced by surgery, minor injury or even emotional tension. These happenings do not cause the inborn error in uric acid metabolism, but merely precipitate the unfortunate symptoms that can stem from it, for 90 per cent of people with a raised level of uric acid in their blood do not suffer from gout. Likewise, the association of gout with diabetes, obesity and hypertension is not a direct one.

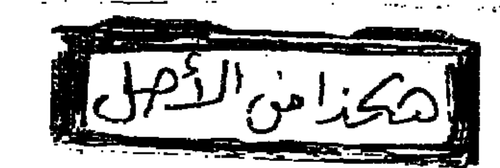
Recurrent attacks of gout can damage the kidneys and the joints. In pseudogout, crystals of a different chemical, calcium pyrophosphate, are deposited in joints. This condition can affect older people of both sexes.

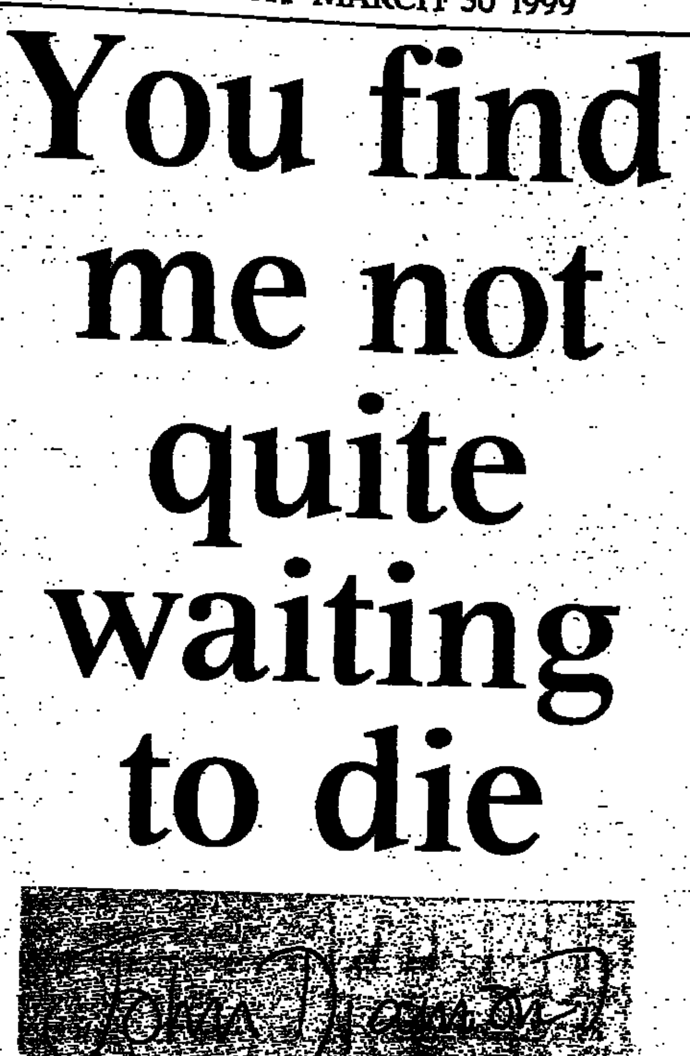
The best form of treatment for gout is to keep it at bay. Zyloric (allopurinol) is the drug of choice for reducing serum uric acid and, therefore, avoiding attacks. It should always be prescribed for the patient with high levels of blood uric acid who has more than two attacks in a year or has joint or kidney involvement.

Zyloric can, when first given, precipitate an attack, so it is best to give with it an anti-inflammatory agent such as Indocid (indomethacin). Zyloric should not be prescribed for regular use until at least a month after the last serious episode.

The anti-inflammatory agents are also useful in treating an acute attack of arthritis, and in other cases aspiration of the joint, and injection with an intra-articular steroid may be necessary. Colchicine may be useful to keep gout at bay in the occasional patient who is unable to take allopurinol or its alternative, Benemid (probenecid).

Other measures that will help a person to avoid gout include avoiding certain kinds of food — those containing nitrogen-rich purine compounds such as kidneys, other offal, game, lobster and shellfish — and drinking less alcohol and more non-intoxicating drinks. Some people, however, prefer to take Zyloric (allopurinol) and range freely over the menu.





You find me not quite waiting to die

As John Diamond learns that his cancer cannot be cured, he is certain that his life can still be happy and worthwhile

When I was 11 I got a Hackney scholarship to the City of London School. I'd been a bright child in junior school and used to being at the top of the class without working very hard for it. At City of London I was in a class full of bright children and, worse, bright children who worked hard. At the end of the first year I came near the bottom of the class.

I tried to work out something to say to my parents that would take the shock of my failure away in an instant. I got home, knocked on the door and when Mum answered I said, without preamble: "I want to leave the school. It's not right for me." Somehow I imagined — wrongly — that my parents would take me at my word and ignore the damning report as symptomatic of the school's failure, not mine.

Sitting in the car, I felt the same sort of blind panic now. I needed a quick, radical solution to this: a solution to the prognosis, the threat of surgery, the prospect of a tongueless, voiceless, foodless life. I told Nigella I was seriously thinking of not having the operation. Then, seizing on the quick solution, I asked if she'd help me to commit suicide. She wouldn't — not because, as a complete atheist, she had any moral argument with suicide itself, but for a list of other reasons, such as wanting me to hang around as long as possible and not wanting to have to tell the children one day when they asked that she'd helped the father they couldn't remember to kill himself.

> We were no longer talking about cure but about remission

I had the operation in August 1998. This time there was no question of not accepting all the help I could get, so I started on antidepressants a couple of days before the operation in the hope that they'd kick in as the morphine wore off. The routine was much the same as it had been the last time: a few days in the high-dependency unit, a few more days, with tubes poking out of me, in my room. This time I was more able to cope with the routine and lasted in hospital for the full fortnight, so that when I came home I was relatively normal, as far as the children were concerned, always remembering that these were children who were getting used to their father's cumulative disablement.

I had a tracheotomy again and now had a tube poking out of my stomach, through which I fed three times a day. I brought home carrier bags full of drugs, sprays, wipes, swabs etc, and a schedule for taking the painkillers, anti-emetics, food supplements, indigestion remedies that would cover me for the next few weeks. I wore a small battery-operated pump that would inject a regular flow of dimorphine into me to keep the pain down.

I had scars at the left-hand side of my neck, where they had reached through to get the tongue, and for a foot along my back, where they had taken the muscle and its attached vein. Looking in the mirror, I realised that if I'd had all three operations at once, my head would have fallen off: I had scars almost entirely encircling my neck. I had no voice to speak of because my new tongue was still full of stitches, but within weeks it became apparent that while Nigella and the children could understand almost everything I said, nobody else was ever likely to.

But, strangely, I felt convinced that the worst was over and that I was cancer-free. I also felt deeply depressed. I lay in bed calculating how best to do away with myself. I knew that I had sleeping pills somewhere that I could crush up and pump into my stomach: one afternoon I counted them and looked up lethal dosages in a medical book. It seemed such a reasonable thing to do — to let it all just slip away from me. Indeed, it's possible that the only reason I didn't do it then was because I'd promised Nigella that if I was going to digress from the stated regime, I'd consult her first.

So here I was, unable to speak or eat and no real chance of doing either for as long as I lived. It wasn't quite as miserable as it sounds. The antidepressant began to do its job and I started to have a shot at living a little. In September Nigella held a party to launch her first book (about food, ironically). I'd intended to turn up briefly, smile a forced smile and slip away, but I was the last to leave — in part because I was so proud of Nigella's success, in part because I was having a genuinely good time. It turned out that I could be almost as jokey with a pad and pencil as I was with my old voice. Even better, I could drink again. I'd hardly touched a drop recently because of the soreness of my mouth and throat, but here I was, pumping the stuff into my stomach tube with a plastic syringe. Far from finding it gross, friends lined up to watch. The maitre d' of the swish hotel bar in which the party was held went so far as to show me how to get champagne into the syringe without filling it full of bubbles.

So it went until the end of the year. Sure, there was the occasional problem with the hole in my neck, which was strangely unwilling to heal, and the voice I had seemed raspier than usual, but there were some wonderfully good times with the children and Nigella, during which I'd never felt happier.



EDMUND CLARK

John Diamond and his wife, Nigella Lawson: "She didn't want to have to tell the children one day that she'd helped the father they couldn't remember to kill himself"

In December Peter Rhys Evans took a look down my throat and pronounced himself mystified by the unhealed hole. Would I pop in for a scan some time? We fixed a date in the new year and Nigella and I pretended that we believed this was a routine event when we both knew it might well not be.

We decided to take the kids for a holiday: we hadn't had one for two years or more, and if I needed even more surgery, this would be our only opportunity for a while. We spent the end of 1998 and start of 1999 in Disney World and had a wonderful time. Transporting a week's worth of liquid food took some doing, and there were a couple of days when I stayed in bed while the others went to the Magic Kingdom, but that and my inability to do the junk food that is so much a part of theme-park life aside, we couldn't have enjoyed it more.

A couple of days after we returned I went for the scan. There was a suggestion of returning cancer around my larynx. If a biopsy proved this to be the case, then my voicebox would be removed as the surgeons chased the cancer down my gullet. The result would be almost no voice at all but — the upside — I might possibly be able to swallow liquids again. I had the biopsy and the next day turned up for the results. I'd prepared my *Times* readers for a week or so off while I had the operation. In the event I wrote a column the next week:



DISNEYLAND

At Disney World: "We couldn't have enjoyed it more"

"I know what I said last week and I wasn't meant to be here today: I should be back on the ward with the surgeons chasing the cancer further down my neck. But as soon as we arrived at the outpatients clinic we knew it was all up. Normally, we conduct our clinical meetings in an ordinary white cubicle in the general outpatients clinic; this time the receptionist gave us a tight smile and said Mr Rhys Evans had asked for us to be shown to a consulting room in the Marsden's private wing. You do not ask for your patients to be taken to the comfy chairs if you're about to tell them that, after all, the shadow on the scan was a packet of Woodbines left on the machine by a cleaner.

"When Rhys Evans arrived it was with the unspoken hint of worse news still. The clinical possibilities thus far have all been surgical or radiological and I've known for some time that if a medical doctor ever turned up to a consultation we were no longer talking about cure but remission. With my surgeon were two men I'd not met before: a consultant medical oncologist and his registrar. Standing behind them, looking embarrassed, was a tall man in hood and gown with a scythe over his shoulder.

"Statistics tell us that anyone whose job is treating those diagnosed as having cancer will, in around 60 per cent of cases, eventually have to dole out the worst possible news, and you'd suppose that after years of doing it doctors would find a way somewhere between the mawkish and the brusque that would serve them comfortably in most cases. I suppose it's testimony to Peter Rhys Evans that he gave us the news white-faced, nervous, with eyes downcast, much as he must have given the news the first time he ever had to, as if it were something both unsayable and already said.

"And the news is this: The cancer is in too many places around my throat and neck to warrant more surgery. If I let it take its natural course, I have six months left. If I have chemotherapy, and assuming it works and is not so arduous as to be unbearable, I might double or treble that. There's a small but significant chance of doing even better than that as the cancers are tiny and I feel healthier than I ever have.

"I'll take the chemotherapy, of course. Why would I not?

"I'd imagined that I'd feel terrified when I got the news, but what I felt most of all was sad. Sad for Nigella, the children, my parents. As if, of course, sad were a word up to this particular job. I realised that the reason I don't seem to be going through the standard denial-anger-bargaining with God-acceptance schtick is because that's what I've been doing for the past 20 months or so. As soon as I heard the first diagnosis I heard a death sentence being passed and I suppose I never thought of the various operations and procedures as much more than temporary reprieves. Living with cancer must always mean living with the threat of death, even, I imagine, if you manage to increase the distance between you and the diagnosis to the five years that counts as a cure.

"Meanwhile, I have some affairs to get in what passes for order. We haven't told the children and won't for a while, so if you come across them, please don't say anything. I'll carry on working as long as I can and given that one side-effect of the chemotherapy is fatigue, I'm sure you'll understand if I don't answer your mail individually from now on. And we're planning a big party to celebrate Nigella and my ten years of being together. It's strange how, in the middle of all this madness, there are some things worth celebrating."

And so this is how you find me. Not quite waiting to die, because although I've accepted that I will, and sooner rather than later, the same rules apply to the foreshortened life as to one of normal length: just as no well-balanced 45-year-old says 'Why bother going to the movies? I'll be dead in 30 years,' so I find that my imminent death doesn't stop me wanting to know what happens at the end of bad detective thrillers or wanting to spend time with Nigella and the children. Those things are still worth doing. As I write this we have all just returned from buying a basket for the spaniel we are to collect in a couple of days' time. A friend e-mailed me when she heard this to tell me it's a denial of what's happening and what's about to happen. It isn't: I know what's happening. But a dog is a happy thing, and it will be happy for me for whatever time I've got left and as happy as things can be for the family when I've gone.

● *Extracted from* C: Because Cowards Get Cancer, Too *by John Diamond, published in paperback by Vermilion on April 8, £6.99.* Times *readers can buy it for £5.99 with free p&p from* The Times *Bookshop, 0990-134459; the hardback version is available for £7.99 (RRP £9.99).*

● *John Diamond's column appears in* The Times Magazine *on Saturdays.*

And no one stops to think . . .

The Kosovo tragedy should not blind us to this farce in Ulster

Now let me get this right. There's only one way to deal with gangster politicians who manipulate deadlines while selectively reinterpreting deals. And that's to call their bluff. We cannot afford to turn a blind eye to ethnic cleansing by irregular soldiers. So military force must be used. Bullies cannot be allowed to retain the military capacity to terrorise innocents. So their war-making capabilities must be "degraded", by force if necessary.

Unless, of course, their victims are British citizens, and their enemy the British State.

If only, Slobodan Milosevic must think, he had the good fortune to be operating in Belfast and not Belgrade. Then he would find that his arsenal would be treated as his family heirloom, something safeguarded by myth which it was considered indelicate to prise from his grasp. While British Forces seek to devastate the Yugoslav National Army's armaments, British ministers tiptoe round the Irish Republican Army's.

I know that Northern Ireland politics normally ranks next to discussion of whether Shakespeare's plays were written by Bacon as the mark of an obsessive. I appreciate that when the subject of Ulster is raised by those of us with an interest in the Province, then the reaction of many friends is that of the wedding guest to the Ancient Mariner, "hold off! unhand me, grey-beard loon".

But the bloody tragedy in Kosovo should not be allowed to distract us from the black farce running in Stormont this week. It was while Britain was embroiled in a war which started in the Balkans at the beginning of this century that Irish republicanism exploited its moment. It is trying to do so again. But no knowledge of history is required to appreciate what is happening in Ulster now, no engagement with the tangled minutiae of treaties and accords, no interest in the perverse politics of UVFs and INLAs, those gangs of killers who hide behind indecipherable acronyms. This is one occasion when the Ancient Mariners of Ulster politics can ask their audience to attend to a simple morality tale.

At times it has seemed more like a production from Absurdist drama: Beckett without the humour. For the past year, Northern Ireland has been waiting for Gerry.

When the Good Friday agreement was presented last April it was supposed to breathe democratic life into a Province starved of normal politics. Complex institutions were established designed to guarantee that no section of Northern Irish society could dominate any other, that every voice would be respected. Politicians from those parties which had never used violence, Protestant and Catholic, Unionist and nationalist, set to work to root these new institutions in the Province's narrow ground. But normal politics could begin only if the players were determined to act as normal politicians. And that meant that those groups, republican or loyalist, who had used violence in the past would have to forswear their arms. No staged surrender to the British Forces was required, simply co-operation with an international body pledged to impartiality.

And yet, one year on, there has been no relaxing of the grip on the trigger. Indeed, while moderate politicians have been building new bodies to promote dialogue, terrorists on both sides have been rebuilding their arsenals. Even those disposed to ignore the replenishment of these private armies could not ignore their continued use of violence, from the beating of children to the murder of lawyers.

The unveiling of the Good Friday agreement was accompanied by a pledge from the Prime Minister, in his own hand, that its fruits would be enjoyed only by those who had given up violence for good. Now those words seem to be interred alongside all the other victims of terror. For the Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, has indicated that she wants to establish a new government for Northern Ireland at the end of this week with the leaders of the republican terror campaign among its number — without them having had to surrender their weapons. The Ancient Mariner grows restive. Promises, promises everywhere, but not a pledge that sticks.

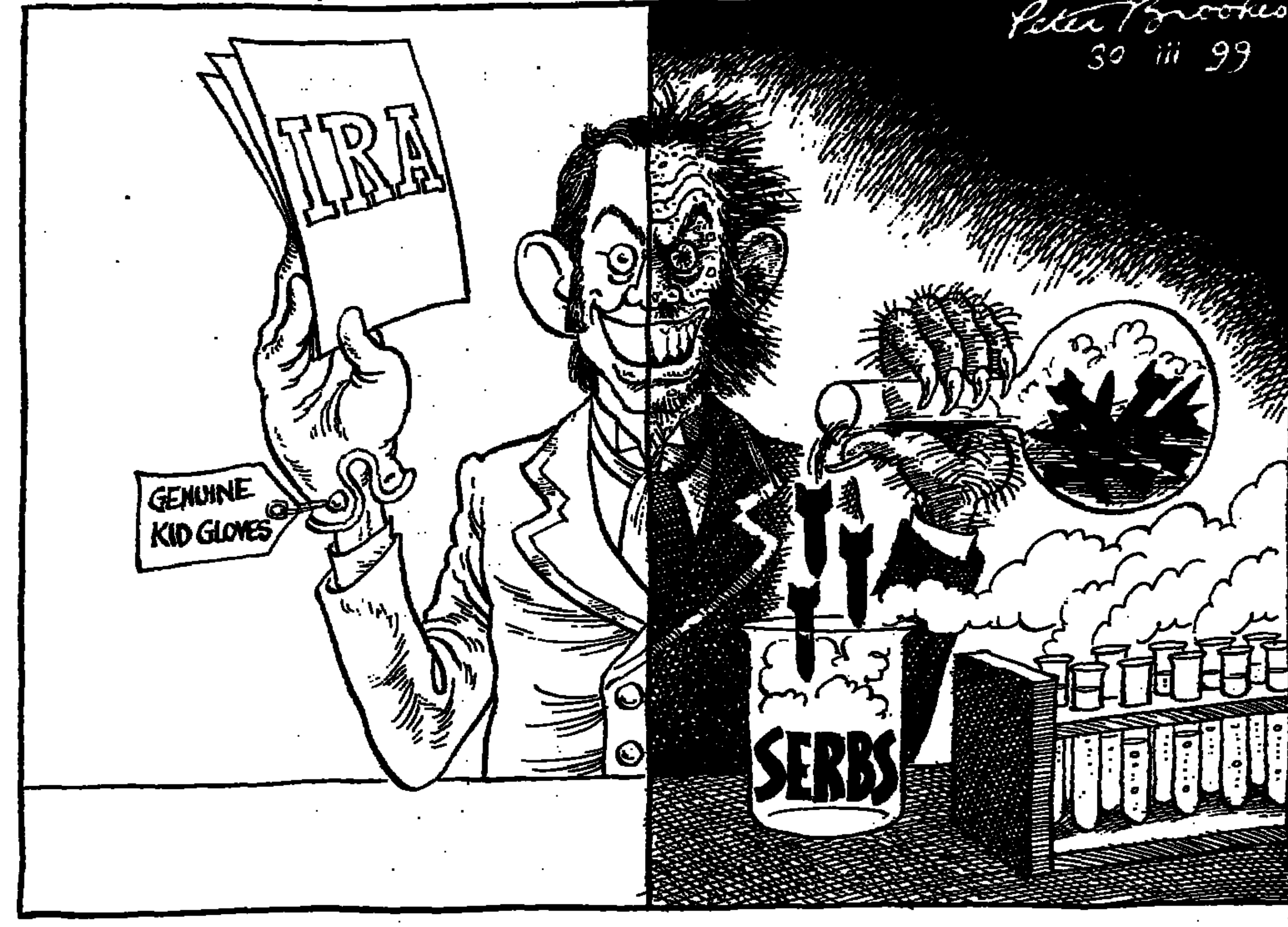
British ministers hope to secure some form of words from Gerry Adams which indicates that he will, at some future point, feel moved to disarm. American apologists for the IRA have sought to present such a rhetorical flourish as a concession to cherish. But how can words from the republican leadership be taken on trust when words from British ministers can be so easily dishonoured? And how, in any case, can we trust a promise from an organisation that murders? Even the simplest moralist must recognise that for those who have been prepared to mutilate and kill, the mere utterance of a pious lie is easy. Crocodiles can weep on cue.

The insistence that the IRA disarm is, as the leading article opposite observes, a necessity of realpolitik. Without it, the Unionist leader David Trimble could not join Sinn Fein in a new government for Northern Ireland. But it is not necessary to engage in detailed analysis of Unionist politics to recognise that the IRA must disarm, any more than one needs to know about crossbows or albatrosses to appreciate the moral of penitence, the need to atone for violence, which gives Coleridge's poem its power.

Critics of the war in the Balkans are told that the course is difficult, but terror must not be allowed to triumph. The West will never be taken seriously again unless it is seen to punish those whose response to negotiation is the brandished gun. But Ulster hangs like an albatross around ministers' necks, mocking their empty pieties.

Michael Gove

michael.gove@the-times.co.uk



DR. JEKYLL & MR. HYDE

Utter, bloody, folly

Our disastrous arrogance means we have a lasting responsibility to the Kosovans

You always need a strong stomach in times of war. It was difficult to imagine anything more nauseating than Clinton's war rhetoric, but we got it, with our own Prime Minister's speech last week about his personal "longest hours" (oh, poor diddums) waiting for the planes to get back safely.

Even then William Hague trumped both of them with his party political broadcast telling the tale of the "little girl" who wrote "I am scared and I want my Daddy to come soon". He is not quite as good at the tremor in the voice as Tony Blair, but he is learning fast.

National and local newspapers try — by God they try — to be even more flesh-creepingly maudlin about our brave heroes, but the headlines (especially in the honest local press) tend to be almost comically belied by what the Service families actually say when invited by journalists to let their feelings rip. Under trembling banners saying "Pray for them" and "Wives who weep in fear", you will generally find the actual quotes are more like "He's trained and prepared for this, and we just hope for the best", or "We know what we signed up for. It's his job".

Never is the stoical resolve, the dutiful understatement, of the Armed Service ethos more admirable than when contrasted with the wobbling lips of politicians — two of whom are desperately trying to justify a blunder, and the third wishing he had had the sense to speak against the said blunder while he still had the chance.

I may be misinterpreting Mr Clinton and Mr Blair. It may be that they have not yet accepted the disastrousness of what they did. They sneered at caution and waved the battle-flag, posing in regimental-stripe ties and talking of "toughness", while more mature voices of generals, veterans and historians warned them precisely what would happen if we bombed.

It could be that in their purblind hearts the Free World's leaders are waving that flag still. Even if doubts creep in, they may think they can hide their misjudgment behind the many vignettes of heroism which the pilots, sailors and eventually soldiers will undoubtedly provide for them as this war escalates. If so, God forgive them.

They would have done better to take some lessons from the Service tradition beforehand: to learn that before you start an action you survey your terrain carefully, weigh up probabilities, save your breath for action not bragging, take the *path which leads to the quickest* ending, and be prepared to clean up the mess afterwards. (This instinct to clean up, by the way, genuinely is a military one: I learnt the other day the piquant story of how the rebuilding of the Bosnian railway system, by sappers from half-a-dozen nations, including Hungary and Romania, was not any politician's initiative. It was the result of months of lobbying and ingenious planning by a mulishly determined Royal Engineers officer who didn't like to leave a country in such a mess.)

But modern politicians hate detail and patience and prefer big, showy stage-sets. Zap Milosevic! Clobba Slobba! Teach him a lesson! Send thunderbolts from on high, like God! Meanwhile, keep your own electorate away from the intimate, horrible detail of war: no body-bags, please. So, inevitably, they opt for bombing.

But bombing does not work in such circumstances; it never has. We ought to know from Iraq — if not from our own Blitz experience — that bombs are more likely to stiffen a disaffected civilian population into a loyal one. Such an affront from the air gives even the liberal Serb (or Iraqi) an instinct to stand by his leader, however vile.

And how could bombing prevent the kind of intimate, village-street butchery going on in Kosovo? Bombs are made to destroy airfields and docks full of big war machines. They are not — whatever the propaganda — fine-tuned precision weapons which can avoid civilians. We now learn that the bombers' laser sights are inhibited by European cloud and fog: "Gee," think Clinton and Blair, "that never happened in the Gulf. Wonder why?" And even if the bombs were precise, the Serbs have only to park their tanks in the middle of Kosovo villages to mock the attackers' scruples.

The real duty which politicians have towards their professional Armed Forces is not to pose with tanks or gulp emotionally about their little daughters' tears. It is to use them properly: to commit them only to wars which are necessary, just, and winnable. In this duty the leaders of the Nato allies have failed, in a breathtaking display of immaturity, arrogance, disrespect for international law and impatience with the crawling processes of carrot-and-stick diplomacy which might, just, have saved lives in Kosovo. They are not even consistent in their folly — why bomb the Serbs for their atrocities and leave other pariah states unscathed? Did we send bombers into Chile during Pinochet's reign of terror?

Governments have let their Forces down, and no amount of crocodile tears can disguise it. These poor bloody pilots are now committed to plastering invisible Serb enemies with destruction from thousands of feet up, in the knowledge that the main results have been to aggravate the butchery of Kosovan Albanians and provoke Russia into reopening the Cold War.

The humanitarian disaster is the worst. Slobodan Milosevic has done exactly what serious experts on Serb history and mentality predicted all along. He has harnessed the ancient traditions of tribal patriotism and xenophobia to step up the murder in response to the bombing. Men are being rounded up and killed (refugees report that the staff of two schools died at the weekend) and women and children driven across mined borders to arrive injured, exhausted and starving in countries with little capacity to help them. Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, unstable themselves, are under pressure: UNHCR estimates more than two thousand refugees every day. The bombs did not prevent human disaster. They made it worse.

So now we really are involved. Before these terrible missions began, our duty towards the misery of Kosovo was, at least, questionable. Now it is inescapable. There are a lot of fatherless and broken families out there (including innocent Serbs). We Nato nations have done our bit to put them in this pitiable position, and now we have a solemn duty to them. When the bombing ends — and it has to end eventually, whoever loses face — the countries which did it or sanctioned it have got to look after these people whatever it costs.

If a self-supporting peace deal can be arrived at (unlikely, given the fact that Nato still runs Bosnia several years after the war) it will mean a lot of money to rebuild the villages and agriculture of Kosovo and to deal with the aftermath of injury, bereavement and trauma.

If peace does not come to the region, then it means even more inescapable duties for Nato nations: protection, support, refugee status, resettlement. There are a lot of empty acres in America and in Europe; and there is wealth, too, in comparison with the fragility of the countries where these refugees now huddle. If we want to emerge from this fiasco with any honour left at all, there will be sacrifices to be made so the "international community" can rebuild these lives. We have no option now.

Before the bombing, Milosevic's persecution was bad enough, something for other nations to dissuade with every peaceful means. To oppose it was a good deed, but not an inescapable duty. Since the bombing the persecution has become far worse, and that is our fault, and we must pay for it as unhesitatingly as we now pay for multimillion-dollar explosions.

Remember that, in months to come. Remember it when America loses interest and Britain and Germany sniff that mere "economic migrants" do not deserve refugee status because the killing has stopped. These are our people now. We owe them.

Libby Purves

comment@the-times.co.uk

Blue streak

DONS at Cambridge are suspected of being among a band of streakers enlivening the town. Police called on Queens' College demanding to speak to an academic sort after reports that one of the college's more senior members was among a scantily clad group spotted on a late-night dash across town.

"Four naked men were seen walking down Madingley Road towards the town centre at 1am on Saturday night," confirm Cambridgeshire police. Bobbies visited Queens' the next day in connection with the incident, leaving a message in a don's pigeonhole.

Queens' insists that its profs are always properly covered. "I've spoken to our senior members and they were astonished," Lord Eatwell, college President, assures me. Still, over-exposure seems rife at Cambridge. Five undergraduate members of a Welsh drinking society streaked from Trinity Hall to St John's College and were caught on new CCTV cameras.

BEHIND every great supermum is a great nanny. So imagine the crisis for Nicola Horlick as her nanny of ten years standing quits — leaving Nicola four kids and a career to look after.

■ THE Queen must have enjoyed *Yes, Minister*. Sir Nigel Hawthorne, pictured, claims that when he was presented to Her Majesty at a theatre recently she demanded:



"What are you doing here?" Sir Nige is sympathetic. "She'd got it locked into her mind that I was Sir Humphrey and so she couldn't understand what I was doing." Perhaps she thought he was her flower-arranger enjoying a night off.

GERMAINE GREER grows stranger with every wrinkle. She says Loaded, the lads' magazine, is "much better than Cosmo".

■ A MINISTER who has urged the public to heat their houses with solar power has admitted that he has abandoned plans to do so in his terraced semi. John Battle, the Energy Minister, tells me: "I made inquiries about getting solar-powered tiles but when the costs were added to my mortgage it was just too much. It just wasn't worth doing for the savings I would make." Saving the planet will have to wait.

GREENIES in Oxford are revolting: the university wants to erect 93 radio masts in Wytham Wood (home to badgers and other docile creatures) to monitor nature. So self-defeating, life.



■ AFTER Nicholas Witchell's tale about the liquid lunches of BBC types in the Falklands war, memories of the newscaster's thirst have been stirred: a Forces chum says that when Witchell was reporting from the islands after the conflict, he "was noted for enjoying a dram or two in the Upland Goose".

He goes on: "One evening, after such a tincture, he was told that a Royal Irish Ranger was related to a stable lad who knew what had happened to Shergar."

Off went Witchell on an MoD-assisted chase round the islands. "He only found out when I presented him with a can of Kit-e-Kat and said: 'This is what really happened to Shergar.' He flushed and hurled it to the ground." I call the BBC for commentary: "Miaow."

AFTER the Irish Question, the Fabians are holding a conference on the English Question. Risky.

■ THE voice of the Allies at war, Jamie Shea, contrasts with the cut-glass calm of previous Nato sorts. Indeed, a snooty general's wife once complained about his Cockney accent to the Brussels HQ.

JASPER GERARD

'To be appointed Director-General of the BBC is actually the perfect last job before you shuffle off. It is a stint in Dunfilmin'

Antoine Palmer

The War of the Spanish Succession changed European history. The War of the Austrian Succession decided the destiny of millions. The War of the Wood Lane Succession will scarcely cause a cocktail glass to tremble in the Groucho Club. The battle to become the next Director-General of the BBC should be an opportunity for the great men (it won't be a woman) of British broadcasting to shape the future of our most exciting industry. But our terrestrial Nelsons and digital Wellingtons are in no mood to join combat.

As an independent producer who respects the BBC and cares about its future, I want to be excited by the identity of the next Director-General. But all those who are best qualified, all those who are engaged in making the medium innovative, won't take it on. Unless the Government is prepared to show greater vision in its ambitions for the BBC then the contest to succeed John Birt is one drama no amount of hype can make interesting. Why? Because the Director-General of the BBC is fettered by a bureaucracy, and government expectations, which are death to creativity. The licence fee allows him no liberty. He may have status, but compared with managers of other creative organisations, no freedom. Sir Michael Checkland and Sir John Birt have been all gongs and no TV dinner.

Michael Jackson, who transformed perceptions of BBC programme-making at BBC 1 and 2, and has made a huge success of reinventing Channel 4, should be a front-runner. But he declines to show any interest. The fallen angel of the BBC prefers to stay with Channel 4 because its board of governors, unlike the BBC's, accept that they mostly don't know anything about TV, and let the creative genius get on with being creative. Like Milton's Satan in *Paradise Lost*, he prefers to rule a lesser domain unfettered than to groan in palatial subservience.

The range of jobs which allow broadcasters to operate freely is daily expanding. And so are their audiences. Why is Channel 5 hitting its audience targets? And why are its chiefs, David Elstein and Dawn Airey, so disinclined to move? Because they are quite clear what Channel 5 is about, and have a completely free hand.

Even the BBC's main rivals are in no mood to contemplate the index-linked security of Wood Lane. David Liddiment and Richard Eyre are, at last, reversing a decade-long decline in ITV's share. And all because the ITV companies have had the courage to defy the pious restraints of pompous parliamentarians. The ITV Network has allowed Liddiment and Ayre to commission more or less what they like and, after a bit of whining, the ITC has let them move *News At Ten*.

It has only been by defying the *soi-disant* guardians of the public interest that the public has got interested again in ITV. You can't expect living organisms to grow when they're constantly under the microscope. Nor can creative commercial organisations flourish when their decisions are subject to the scrutiny of busybodies. Can you imagine Tesco having a public inquiry before it was allowed to change the aisle where it displayed the baked beans?

But nobody will give the next Director-General of the BBC enough space to make any difference at the corporation. Whoever it is, whatever he'd like to do, however brilliant or informed his decision-making, he just won't be allowed to get on with his job.

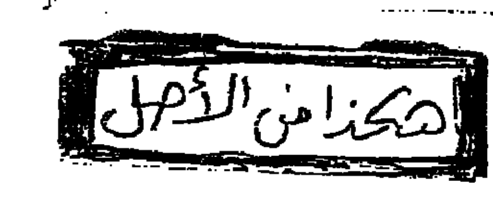
Although John Birt masterminded the launch of a raft of focused digital channels which are wonderfully free of bureaucracy, the need to maintain government support for the licence fee meant that everywhere else had to be treated as a withered arm of the State. BBC Production has been transformed into a fearsome place which is full of policy working groups, management accountants and mumbo-jumbo.

John Birt, poor guy, was not so much a villain as a victim of circumstance. He was just taking Thatcherite principles of cost control and applying them to the BBC so that Conservatives wouldn't hate the BBC enough to privatise it. That's all. And the new Director-General will have to do the same thing for new Labour. Because that's the job description of the chief executive of Britain's last great nationalised industry.

When Michael Jackson said he didn't want to be the next D-G of the BBC everyone thought he was just playing hard to get. But why should he be lying? Why should anyone who wants to make a difference take this job? D-G of the BBC is actually the perfect last job before you shuffle off. It is a stint in Dunfilmin, an Eventide Home for those who no longer want to manage, only decline.

The author is a director of Freeform Productions

comment@the-times.co.uk







DIARY

Blue streak

FACTS ON THE GROUND

Milosevic is still bent on Balkan devastation

Yevgeni Primakov flies into Belgrade today. In theory, the Russian Prime Minister is there on a mission impossible, instructed by Boris Yeltsin to effect "an immediate halt" to Nato airstrikes. In practice, his trip may be for home consumption, to display support for the Serbs. But at least he is going to the right address, since it is in Belgrade that the step needed to stay Nato's hand must be taken.

The Russians will find Slobodan Milosevic intractable. Even if Mr Primakov tries — and he may not — to convince the Yugoslav President that Nato will ultimately destroy the federal Army, he can expect the retort that Nato's "aggression" cannot disrupt the subjugation of "terrorists" in Kosovo, that Yugoslav public opinion is solidly behind Mr Milosevic and that the West will soon be forced to back down.

In Serbia, Mr Milosevic is indeed more popular than he has been in years — which was no small part of his purpose in defying Nato. That is partly because bombing initially rallies peoples behind their leaders, however awful, but also because most Serbs know next to nothing about the horrors being visited on Kosovan civilians. Mr Milosevic has closed down the independent Serbian media which might have told them. Even in Montenegro, whose democratic Government has steadily denounced war over Kosovo as a "suicidal" policy that will kill innocent people and "threaten the survival of the joint state" of Yugoslavia, people are so divided that civil war or a Belgrade-inspired coup are terrible possibilities now.

Yet the number of military reservists who have gone into hiding rather than be drafted to Kosovo suggests that this popular support is shallow and could turn when the going gets really tough — as, for most people, it has not yet. Mr Milosevic is vulnerable on two counts. With thousands of Kosovan refugees now being driven into Montenegro, in what seems a deliberate policy to destabilise its Government, the bloody truth will inevitably begin to circulate in neighbouring Serbia. Secondly, there will be rising casualties in the Yugoslav Army and paramilitary police, as well as in the notorious hit squads now operating under their command, as Nato concentrates its tank-busters and attack helicopters on disrupting the carnage in Kosovo. And these men have families.

Continuous attack from the air demoralises ground troops, the more so if systematic attack damages chains of command, armour, ammunition and fuel dumps and repair depots. Army officers may soon see that they risk mass desertions, the collapse of military infrastructure and, in an eventual worst case, the dissolution of Serbia and Montenegro into chaotic regions run by local warlords.

But although Serbia is no Iraq, its top leadership is not unlike Saddam Hussein's. Mr Milosevic has packed the supreme military and intelligence commands with men personally loyal to him, and to the hardline Socialist Party run by his ruthless wife, Mirjana Markovic. General Dragoljub Ojdanic, the Chief of Staff, commanded the paramilitary Serbian Volunteer Guard in the atrocities against Muslims in Visegrad and Foca during the fighting in Bosnia. He turned a deaf ear in January, when Washington sent American generals to Belgrade to spell out the choice before the Yugoslav Army: devastatingly massive destruction, or a settlement which would be followed by closer ties and, eventually, a Partnership for Peace with Nato. Because he stands or falls with Mr Milosevic, he will stay deaf.

The current high command is so highly politicised that a change of policy may be impossible without a *volte face* by Mr Milosevic, or a revolt by more solidly professional commanders. There is massive evidence that the crushing of Kosovo is not a response to airstrikes; it is long-planned, and would have gone ahead without a Nato decision to act. The pace has accelerated because Mr Milosevic realises that he must use all the firepower he has before he loses it. That is why Nato has to accelerate its own offensive, not only out of crying humanitarian need, but because the course on which Mr Milosevic is bent has, as its inescapable corollary, the disintegration of the southern Balkans.

SEMTEX NOT SEMANTICS

Neither peace nor Trimble can survive the refusal to disarm

Twelve months ago Tony Blair flew into Belfast and emerged with the Good Friday agreement. The Prime Minister and Bertie Ahern, his Irish counterpart, returned to Northern Ireland last night in a frantic attempt to save that settlement. Their task will be much harder this time because the decommissioning of terrorist weapons, the central issue that was deliberately left ambiguous last year, can no longer be avoided. If the Government authorises the formation of an all-party executive without firm evidence of decommissioning, David Trimble will either feel obliged to resign as Northern Ireland's First Minister or find himself a leader without a party.

Numerous uncomfortable concessions have been demanded from the Ulster Unionists. They have agreed to a set of cross-border institutions that will give the Irish Republic considerable influence over the internal affairs of the Province. They have tolerated the release of convicted murderers even though their parent organisations — loyalist and republican — have not abandoned but merely redirected violence from bombings to beatings. They have accepted a far-reaching inquiry into the future of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. They have abandoned their initial, not unreasonable, demand for total IRA decommissioning in favour of a symbolic initial deposit from the IRA's arsenal.

Mr Trimble, who met with Gerry Adams again yesterday, will now come under enormous pressure to admit Sinn Fein into an executive, in return for a form of words from the IRA that might hint at flexibility on this matter at some unspecified future moment. There are reports that the IRA could be willing to engage in a suitably artful linguistic exercise. This superficial "moderation" does not sit well with the evidence that the IRA is on a spending spree for more sophisticated armaments. Further ambiguity this week will help no one. If Mr Trimble is to survive in office then he needs Semtex, not semantics.

The real choice is not one between an imperfect compromise that preserves the peace process or a rapid return to violence. If the Government cuts the ground from under Mr Trimble, the various loyalist factions, themselves rapidly rearming and emboldened after the murder of Rosemary Nelson two weeks ago, will become the first to shoot, making it easy for the IRA to follow shortly afterwards. The task of Mr Blair and Mr Ahern this week is to extract that small and largely symbolic transfer of arms necessary to demonstrate that the IRA has some interest in the institutions of democracy and is not fomenting anarchy.

If that cannot be achieved, the two Prime Ministers must contemplate a fundamental shift in strategy. Allowing Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, to initiate the formation of an executive in such circumstances would be the same as soliciting Mr Trimble's resignation. Deadlines can focus the mind but should not dominate thinking. It would be better, although hardly ideal, for Mr Blair and Mr Ahern to tread water for a bit, rather than proceed along the wrong path on a self-imposed timetable. This would at least make it clear that it was up to the IRA, and the IRA alone, to decide between a modest degree of initial decommissioning and the end of the Good Friday agreement.

DURABLY STATELY

Longleat's 50th anniversary is a triumph for compromise

How beautiful they stand. In the 50 years since the 6th Marquess of Bath first opened the doors of his Tudor mansion, Longleat, to the paying public, the Stately Homes of England have, against all the odds, survived into a more egalitarian age.

Halfway through this century, the signs were that the decay of aristocratic influence would lead to the physical destruction of these homes. Landowners could no longer afford to inherit their estates. Death duties had risen from 8 per cent in 1904 to 15 per cent in 1914 and a punishing 50 per cent in 1934 — a polite mugging of the upper classes by governments which now saw their vast properties as indefensible symbols of privilege, and a snub to the mocked and motheaten aristocrats' claim that their treasures were in trust for the entire nation.

Yet it was in these austere years that a backlash began. A new generation, spoken for by romantic reactionaries such as Evelyn Waugh, popularised the affectionate notion that stately homes embodied all that was most civilised about England's past. The National Trust's Country House Scheme, which had met with little interest when set up in 1936, suddenly won popularity. About 230 houses and castles have been handed to the Trust; and altogether 900 are open to the public. Longleat, in Wiltshire, is one of the dottier success stories of this very British compromise between tradition and democracy.

Lord Bath originally opened it in 1949 to raise the money to pay £600,000 in death duties. Since then, it has welcomed seven million visitors. Among Longleat's eccentric charms are wild beasts (it became the first safari park outside Africa when lions were introduced in 1966); the wild man of the British aristocracy, the flamboyant 7th Marquess, who has covered the walls of his private quarters with lurid murals; Lord Bath's brood of "wifelets" past and present, who inhabit cottages on the estate; balloons, mazes, and a hall of mirrors.

The survival of Britain's country houses may no longer prove, in Noël Coward's gently mocking words, that the upper classes have still the upper hand. But the stately homes business has served two purposes vital for a society in 20th-century transition. Not only has it allowed a broader public to enjoy the magnificent works of art collected over the centuries by the owners of these patrician palaces; it has also let the families who once formed Britain's governing elite keep their dignity as their political power is whittled away.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

The human rights issue in Kosovo

From Mrs Ludmila Vodopyanov

Sir, Because of the many ties which bind Russia to Serbia, there is tremendous anger in Russia at the way the West is dealing with Serbia (letters March 29, etc). Russia cannot do much at present to oppose the strikes, but this is an assault the Russian people will not easily forget.

Russia has frozen relations with Nato, the Russian Duma has debated the redeployment of nuclear missiles in Belarus closer to the border with the West, while the Ukrainian parliament has discussed the revision of that country's non-nuclear status.

Nato's airstrikes are not simply destroying Serbia's military capability: they are destroying the trust which has been so painfully built up between Russia and the West; Nato's bombing undermines Russian's fragile democracy and is clearing the way for the emergence of dictatorial leaders with military ambitions.

The message the strikes send to developing countries and non-Nato states is to downgrade their spending on health, education and social services and acquire as much military strength as possible, preferably nuclear weapons, in case Nato takes a dislike to their leader or internal policies. Had Serbia been a nuclear power, it might not have been attacked.

International law justifies the use of force solely in self-defence. No such justification can be found for an air war against a sovereign country and UN member state. Human rights violations, however regrettable, are not a valid justification for military intervention unless and until they become part of international law and are signed up to by all UN member states.

Yours faithfully,
LUDMILA VODOPYANOV,
107 Milson Road, W14 0LA.
March 27.

From Lieutenant-Colonel Neil Winship, Royal Tank Regiment (retd)

Sir, Sadly the reason and common sense in your leading article ("A bloody step ahead", March 27) has not been reflected in many of the letters published alongside.

Assuming Bishop Montefiore does not wish us to heartlessly abandon the Kosovans who are being widowed and orphaned daily, what better way can he propose? Our representatives have tried jaw-jaw; our air forces are not bombing "the naughty Serbs", as Mr Cockerham alleges, but are curbing a military force that is slaughtering the defenceless. Avoidance of widespread casualties among non-combatant Serbs should rightly please those responsible for designing, building and using the B2 and *HMS Splendid*, etc.

In the unlikely event of our snug villages and towns offering refuge to those Kosovans who wish to avoid being murdered and terrorised, it seems the Serbian military and police will not even let them flee. So we have no alternative but to pursue diplomacy by other means and many of us realise that will require ground forces.

It would be naive not to expect some casualties among our Services, but at least they are volunteers — fine examples of readiness to lay down their lives for unknown friends. Surely they do have a moral cause on our behalf and deserve better than criticism of those who are leading us in this very difficult time.

Yours etc,
NEIL WINSHIP,
Westhill, Copdock, Ipswich IP8 3ET.
alpheco@anglianet.co.uk
March 27.

From Mr Mycal Miller

Sir, Bishop Hugh Montefiore writes that "the United Nations is the only body with moral authority to license force against a sovereign country". With the greatest respect to him and the UN, I believe in a higher authority. The absence of agreement from Russia and China can hardly be considered conclusive.

In the New Testament parable, the "Good Samaritan" helps a man who has been attacked and left by the side of the road. But what should he have done if he had arrived on the scene a little earlier, whilst the attack was taking place? Would he simply have wrung his hands but done nothing to help his neighbour?

Yours faithfully,
MYCAL MILLER,
8 Homestead Park,
Dollis Hill, NW2 6JB.
March 29.

From Mr Shahed Sadullah

Sir, Much has been said about the moral and legal authority behind the decision to bomb Yugoslavia. The two are not necessarily the same thing.

But while we argue about legal niceties, a most horrendous act of genocide is being perpetrated in Kosovo. I can think of nothing more immoral than for people who are in a position to do something about this tragedy to turn their backs and walk away.

President Clinton and Prime Minister Blair are to be saluted for having brought an element of morality to international politics.

Yours etc,
SHAHED SADULLAH,
14 Quarrendon Road, Amersham,
Buckinghamshire HP7 9EF.
March 27.

Confusion over safety of US meat

From Professor Ian C. Shaw

Sir, The US is trying to force the EU to import its meat, which could have been produced using growth-promoting hormones (report, March 23; letter, March 26). I believe that most people in the UK do not want to eat meat which might contain hormone residues because they perceive the risk as being significantly greater than it is. The infinitesimally low residues in US meat are likely to have no effect on the consumer.

Acute effects of such residues are known to be negligible. The long-term effects are more difficult to assess. Even though animal studies suggest no effects, we can never be certain what might happen to the human consumer over a long period, but the risk is very low.

Hormones were banned from UK farming in the early 1980s to comply with an EC Directive, although the UK authorities at the time opposed the ban because there was no scientific evidence that hormones, used properly, were harmful. The ban was felt to be necessary because of the misuse of a specific group of hormones, which were thought to present a cancer risk after long-term exposure. They had been found in food at levels which would have had an acute toxic effect.

The term hormone can be misleading. In the present situation we mean synthetic hormones. All meat contains natural hormones and this can present a difficulty for regulators policing the use of hormones. For example, testosterone, the male hormone, is present in bulls at much higher levels than in cows. Bull beef will provide a greater dose of testosterone than beef from a cow. If testosterone had been used to promote growth in female animals the dose to the consumer would probably be about that from bull beef, but the cow meat would be illegal in the UK because a growth-promoting hormone had been used. This illustrates well the confusion over hormone residues in meat in both consumers' minds and from the point of view of safety.

More important, hormone growth-promoters increase yield and so may reduce the number of farmers needed. Meat produced in this way is also cheaper. UK farmers are already finding it difficult to cope with cheap EU imports. Many growth-promoting hormones result in leaner meat. Americans like this, partly because of a positive health effect, but also because they do not like fatty meat. In the UK we prefer flavoursome meat, which fat promotes.

In my opinion, the best way forward would be to let the US export meat to us and so comply with the Gatt agreement, but legislate to enforce labelling so that the consumer can decide whether to risk eating hormone residues. I suspect that if we do this there will be no market here for US meat.

Yours faithfully,
IAN SHAW
(Head), Centre of Toxicology,
University of Central Lancashire,
Preston PR1 2HE.
March 26.

An end to poverty?

From Mr James D. Craig

Sir, Your leading article on Tony Blair's Beveridge Lecture (March 19) might have made the point that, however laudable the sentiment, the concept of removing poverty, most particularly in respect of children, is an illusory nonsense.

All but a tiny proportion of the poor currently with us are, in absolute terms, infinitely richer than those of average means in Beveridge's time, to say nothing of the world at large even today. For as long as talent and effort are rewarded, as they must be in any society where personal freedoms are not crushed entirely by an Orwellian state, earnings will vary from one family to another and, by definition, some families will exist — no matter how well stocked their larders or their CD collections — in relative poverty.

Childhood poverty is an especially difficult target to address since children cannot be the direct beneficiaries of cash grants or tax credits. No matter how poor a parent's record in deploying resources for his or her child's health and welfare, we are, with good reason, reluctant to make the care of that child the responsibility of anyone else.

We may take some comfort from the fact that Mr Blair has allowed 20 years for the completion of this hopeless objective. But it is a great pity that he bothered to paint the mirage at all, reinforcing the already too prevalent notion that the highest standards of living projected to the sitting room via the satellite dish funded by the weekly giro are somehow a right of citizenship.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES D. CRAIG,
36 Auchinloch Road,
Lenzie, Glasgow G66 5HA.
March 19.

Science in Russia

From Sir Arnold Wolfendale, FRS

Sir, Your second leader yesterday referred to Yevgeni Primakov's planned visit to the IMF and the need to have him carry out the reforms agreed in previous IMF deals. I would add another to the list: to pay liveable salaries to the diminishing number of scientists employed in Russia's institutions.

Russia's contributions to science have been legion but the present lack of funds has had dire consequences. Very few young scientists are left in their prestigious institutions and the older ones need to earn money abroad — where this is possible. Science in Russia is grinding to a halt.

It is surely to the great discredit of the West that our financial tutelage has been completely ineffective. One would have thought that our experience of the activities of our own "fat cats" would have alerted us to the dangers inherent in a fledgeling democracy.

The prospect of a democratic Russia without a scientifically literate population is frightening to contemplate.

Yours sincerely,
ARNOLD WOLFENDALE,
Department of Physics,
University of Durham,
Science Laboratories,
South Road, Durham DH1 3LE.
March 24.

Lords reform

From Mr Peter F. Hanbury

Sir, The article by Andrew Tyrie, MP (March 26), sets out clearly the case for an elected House of Lords rather than a retirement house for government appointees after the hereditary peers are abolished.

I would go further and suggest that the powers of a new, elected, Upper House should be increased. I believe we are on the verge of an elected dictatorship already. Free debate in the Commons is increasingly being reduced by the Government, therefore it is vital that a second chamber exists to foster free debate and with the power to restrain the wishes of the government of the day.

Yours faithfully,
PETER HANBURY,
Hill Ash Farm, West Harting,
Petersfield, Hampshire GU31 5NY.
March 27.

The Irish question

From Mr Charles Quant

Sir, Will somebody in Sinn Fein please tell us what the ira wants its weapons *for*?

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES QUANT,
Silverwood,
Gwernymynydd,
Mold, Flintshire CH7 5LE.
March 29.

Top cat?

From Mrs Sandra Mackenzie Smith

Sir, I presume that Java, the cat who was welcomed back to England in your Personal Column today (after six months' quarantine at the Court Park Cattery), will be using *The Times* in his litter box each day.

Yours,
S. MACKENZIE SMITH,
30 Prothero Road, SW6 7LZ.
March 25.

Gender misassigned

From Ms S. E. Marshall

Sir, Your report (News in Brief, March 23) that "a man who had a sex-change has won the right to join the police as a WPC" is perversely worded, though sadly accurate as the law stands. It is clear from their judgment that the employment tribunal treated the applicant as a woman. Indeed, West Yorkshire Police (who have a good equal opportunities record) would happily have employed her as such had they not thought they were legally barred from doing so.

Though the applicant may once have looked male she would not have sought gender reassignment had she been a man. The sooner this logic is recognised and those whose gender has been (understandably) misassigned at birth are allowed to correct not only their physical attributes but also their legal status the better. The money wasted trying to uphold a legal nonsense could have been more usefully spent policing West Yorkshire.

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN MARSHALL,
Exeter College, Oxford OX1 3DP.
March 24.

No red card this time

From Dr Dave Allen

Sir, A leading English football coach speaks about reincarnation and spiritual healing and loses his job. A second leading coach seduces a 15-year-old girl and is sent to prison but keeps his job (report, March 27).

Can there be a more eloquent testimony to the dominant values in this once great game?

Yours faithfully,
DAVE ALLEN,
35 Broad Street,
Old Portsmouth PO1 2JD.
113070.1251@compuserve.com

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

No benefits in Bill for future disabled

From Mr Ian Bruce, Co-Chair of the Disability Benefits Consortium, and others

Sir, In the analysis of Gordon Brown's Budget little mention has been made of the fact that the tax giveaways of the future will be partly paid for by reductions in social security spending: £750 million a year will be cut from disability benefits in the Government's Welfare Reform and Pensions Bill.

When the Bill was published the Prime Minister wrote that it signalled the end of the "something for nothing culture", and Alistair Darling, the Secretary of State for Social Security, said that the Bill would meet the Government's aim to provide "security for those who cannot work".

On the contrary; the cuts contained in the Bill mean that thousands of people who become disabled in future will be denied vital benefits, far outweighing the few who will benefit more. These are people who may have paid national insurance for years or who may have spent years bringing up children or caring for relatives. If they are no longer able to work they will face insecurity.

That is why disabled people will be lobbying their MPs tomorrow, Tuesday. They will be doing so not on their own behalf, but on behalf of the thousands who perhaps don't think the issue of disability benefits cuts is anything to do with them; those who will become disabled, and for whom national insurance will have been an expensive waste of time.

We urge the Government, and all MPs to amend the Bill as it goes through Parliament. The swingeing cuts to thousands of people's future security must be reversed.

Yours faithfully,
IAN W. BRUCE,
Royal National Institute for the Blind,
RICHARD BREWSTER,
Scope,
BERT MASSIE,
Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation,
LORNA REITH,
Disability Alliance,
JAMES STRACHAN,
Royal National Institute for Deaf People,
RICHARD WOOD,
British Council of Organisations of Disabled People,
224 Great Portland Street, W1N 6AA.
March 29.

Wedding gifts

From Mr Geoffrey Robinson

Sir, Many years ago, as a practising stained-glass artist, I made as a gift when an old school friend of mine got married (letters, March 18 and 24) a leaded-up stained glass roundel of coloured pieces, about 8 inches in diameter, complete with attached loop, that he could hang in a window for, I hoped, pleasing decorative effect.

Visiting them a couple of years later, I found that, not knowing what it was for, they were using it as a teapot stand.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY ROBINSON,
Perelandra,
18 Royal Park, Clifton,
Bristol BS8 3AL.
March 24.

From Mr D. L. B. Hartley

Sir, Bernard Shaw gave advice (of course) about wedding presents.

Instead of giving people things you must give them money and let them buy what they like with it ... When a young lady is married give her money (I always do) ... Money is the most convenient thing in the world. (*The Intelligent Woman's Guide to Socialism*, chapter 6, 1928).

Yours sincerely,
DESMOND HARTLEY,
Ghyll Bank,
Brook Road, Windermere,
Cumbria LA23 2BU.
March 24.

From His Honour Judge William Rose

Sir, Monsignor Graham P. M. Adams (letter, March 18) would presumably not wish his gift of bathroom scales to carry the message (or even the interpretation): "Thou art weighed in the balance, and found wanting."

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM ROSE,
Wandsworth County Court,
76-78 Upper Richmond Road,
Putney, SW15 2SU.
March 24.

From Mr Maurice D. Stanton

Sir, About two years ago my wife and I were invited to the wedding of a friend's daughter. We selected a gift from the wedding list included with invitation; bride notified by store; father of bride disinvites us from wedding.

Why? Because he stated the value of the gift had to relate to the number of years we had known him.

Was it our present or our presence that was required at the wedding?

Yours etc,
MAURICE D. STANTON,
52 Montpelier Rise,
Wembley,
Middlesex HA9 8RQ.
March 24.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 29: The Duke of Edinburgh, Honorary Member of the Tiger Club and President of the Judges, this evening attended the Dawn to Dusk International Flying Competition Dinner at Stationers' Hall, Ave Maria Lane, London EC4.

March 29: The Princess Royal, President, Riding for the Disabled Association, this morning opened the Wellow Group's Indoor School at Little Horse Croft Farm, Wellow Trekking Centre, Wellow, Bath, Somerset, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset (Lady Gass).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon officially opened the Paediatric Neuro-Rehabilitation Unit at the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, Upper Borough Walls, Bath, Somerset.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 29: The Duke of Kent this evening visited Glasgow and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the City of Glasgow (Mr Pat Lally).

His Royal Highness later attended a Gala Dinner to launch the first Scottish World Trade Exhibition and Conference, ScotWorld 1999.

The Queen has been pleased, on the recomendation of the Lord Carter, to make the following appointment to Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms:
Major General Jonathan Hall, late Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, to be one of the Honourable Corps upon the retirement of Major Ivor Ramsden.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, honorary life member, The Arts Club, will attend a lunch at the club at 12.40. Later as honorary fellow, Royal College of Radiologists, will attend a concert and dinner at St James's Palace at 7.30.

The Princess Royal, president, Animal Health Trust, will unveil a sculpture of Lord Gyllene at Lanwades Park, Kentford, Newmarket, Suffolk, at 10.15; and will give a luncheon for the Royal Veterinary College at Buckingham Palace at 12.45.

The Duke of Kent will visit *Glasgow Exports* for a briefing on a city-wide strategy for export support, and other companies at the West of Scotland Science Park, Maryhill Road, Glasgow at 10.15.

Princess Alexandra will visit the General Dental Council, 37 Wimpole Street, W1, at 3.00.

Dinner

Cardiff Business Club
The President of Cardiff Business Club, Mr C.N.D. Cole, and the High Sheriff of South Glamorgan, Mr David M. Jones, were present at a dinner held by the Club at The Park Hotel, Cardiff last night. The guest speaker was the Right Hon Ann Widdecombe, Shadow Secretary of State for Health. Mr Alan Rosser, IMC Consulting Group, presided.

Funeral service

Sir Michael Caine
The funeral service for Sir Michael Caine, former chairman of Booker, was held yesterday in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey. Canon Robert Wright, Rector of St Margaret's, officiated, assisted by the Rev Paul Hulme, the Rev Alan Kinsey and the Rev Michael Gwinnell, who led the prayers.

Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne, widow, read the lesson, assisted by Dr Amanda Caine, daughter, and Mr Richard Caine, son. The Commonwealth Secretary-General read from the works of Shakespeare, Ms Beryl Bainbridge read from the works of Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Mr Ben Okri read *To Sir Michael Caine: In Memoriam*, written for the funeral.

The Rev Donald Reeves gave an address. The Rev John Townend, Chaplain and Sacrist of Westminster Abbey, was robed and in the Sanctuary. Among others present were:

Mrs Richard Caine (daughter-in-law), Dagmar and Marisa Caine (granddaughters), Mr and Mrs Andrew Bowyer, (stepbrother and stepsister-in-law), Mr and Mrs David Bryer (stepbrother-in-law and stepsister), Sir John Montgomery Cuninghame (brother-in-law), Sir Richard and Lady Luce and Mr and Mrs Charles Flower (brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law), Mr Amar Kanim, Mrs Janice Caine, Miss Christian M Cuninghame, Miss Nina M Cuninghame, Miss Helen Bryer, Miss Lucy Bowyer, Mr James Bowyer, Mrs Katharine Flower, Miss Sarah Flower, Mr Alexander Luce, Mr Edward Luce, Miss Elizabeth M Cuninghame, Mrs Foster Brown, Mr and Mrs Christopher Wall.

The Ambassador of Kuwait, the Ambassador of Senegal, the Ambassador of Oman, the Russian Ambassador, the Chargé d'Affaires of Iran and Mrs Ansari, Mrs S Dragos (representing the Romanian Ambassador), Mrs Anyaoku, the Earl of Carlisle, Earl Jellicoe, FRS, Lord and Lady Dholakia, Lord Goodhart, QC, Lord Grenfell, Lord Holme of Cheltenham, Lord McNally, Lord Razzall, Lord Standberg, Lord Thomson of Monifieth, KT.

Mr Paddy Ashdown, MP, Lady Goodlad, Mr Michael Jack, MP, Sir Michael and Lady Palliser, Mr and Mrs Jeremy Thorpe, Sir Anthony and Lady Meyer, Sir David Alliance, Sir George and Lady Bishop, Sir Martin Jacomb, Sir Tim Lankester (director, School of Oriental and African Studies, London University), Sir Peter Leslie, Sir Michael McWilliam and Dr Michael Twaddle (Royal African Society), Sir Peter Meinertzhagen, Sir Peter Parker, Sir Henry Phillips, Sir Shirdath and Lady Ramphal, Lady Wilkinson, Princess Galitzine.

Mr Anthony Athaide, Mr and Mrs David Beaton and Mr and Mrs Barry Newton (Booker Tate) with other members of the group; Mr Peter Dyson (United Nations Association), Mr Geoffrey Martin (European Commission), Mr John Niepold (Emerging Markets Management), Ms Margaret Quass (Council for Education in World Citizenship), Miss Jane Reed (News International), Mr Russell Twisk (*Readers Digest*).

Ms Deborah Amger, Mr R M J Andrews, Mr and Mrs Simon Blunt, Mr Henry Breed, Mr John Burnett, MP, Mr and Mrs Roy Close, Mr Ron Davies, Mr Stephen Day, Mr and Mrs Henry Douglas, Mr Hugh Dykes, Mrs Freddy Fisher, Rabbi Albert Friedlander, Mr Martyn Goff, Mr Philip Goldenberg, Mr Nick Harvey, Mr Mike Hoban, Mr Alan Howarth, Mr Mohammad Hussain, Dr and Mrs Trevor Hudson, Mr Nicholas Kindersley, Mr R C Little, Ms Ruth Manning, Mr Shaun Metcalfe, Mr George Moody-Stuart.

Mr James Moorhouse, MEP, and Mrs Moorhouse, Mr John Napier, Mr Richard Packer, Mrs Anne Raynsford, Professor Benjamin Roberts, Mr Adrian Sanders, MP, Mr Clive Saville, Professor Jack Spence, Mr David Taylor, Mr and Mrs Jonathan Taylor, Ms Claire Whitaker, Mr Johnny Wilkinson, Professor Michael Winter, Mr Gerald Wood, Mr Stephen Woodard representatives of the Africa Centre, the Islamic Centre, AMAR, Farm Africa, the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex University, UNESCO, *The Financial Times* and many other friends and former colleagues.

The night sky in April

By Michael J. Hendrie
Astronomy Correspondent

MERCURY is a morning star at greatest western elongation (28 degrees) on the 16th, but it will remain too close to the Sun for observation this month. Venus is a brilliant -4.0 magnitude object dominating the western evening sky throughout April. By the end of the month it will set only 30 minutes before midnight. Crescent Moon to the south on the 18th and Venus to the north of Aldebaran about the 21st. Mars reaches -1.6 magnitude, much the brightest object in the eastern sky, as it moves westwards against the stars from Libra back into Virgo. Mars is at opposition on the 24th and above the horizon all night. The Moon passes to the north on the 2nd-3rd and 29th.

Jupiter is in Pisces and in conjunction with the Sun on the 1st, then becoming a morning object but rising only shortly before the Sun. Saturn moves from Pisces into Aries in early April and may be visible early in the month low in the west after sunset. It is in conjunction with the Sun on the 27th and then becomes a morning object but too near the Sun for observation. Uranus is in Capricornus rising about 02h by the 30th but at 5.7 magnitude requires optical aid for identification: Moon nearby on the 11th. Neptune is 7.9 magnitude and also in Capricornus, rising about 01h 30m by the 30th: Moon nearby on the 10th.

The Moon: last quarter 9d 03h, new Moon 16d 04h, first quarter 22d 19h, full Moon 30d 15h. The Moon will be near Aldebaran on the evening of the 18th.

On the evening of the 24th the gibbous Moon will pass in front of the bright star Regulus in Leo. The occultation begins about 21h 21m near London and a few minutes earlier in Edinburgh, lasting 50 minutes in the south but less than 40 minutes in Scotland. Binoculars may be needed to keep the star in view as the Moon nears it. The Moon moves eastwards against the stars by about its own diameter each hour, so stars disappear behind the Moon's eastern (lefthand) edge or limb and reappear on the western (righthand) limb.

As this occultation takes place between new and full Moon, the western limb of the Moon will be illuminated by the Sun, so the star will disappear at the dark limb and reappear up to 50 minutes later at the bright limb. It is more difficult to see a star close to the bright limb of the Moon.

Sunset on the 1st is at 18h 35m and on the 30th at 19h 25m while sunrise is at 05h 35m and 04h 30m on the same dates. Astronomical twilight ends about 20h 30m and 21h 55m early and late in the month and begins again at 03h 40m and 02h 00m.

Some "shooting stars" or meteors may be seen about the 21st-22nd emanating from the part of the sky near the bright star Vega. The Lyrid meteors are not generally very numerous, though in some years rates have been quite high. The first quarter Moon sets soon after midnight and as Lyrids are often bright some should be seen.

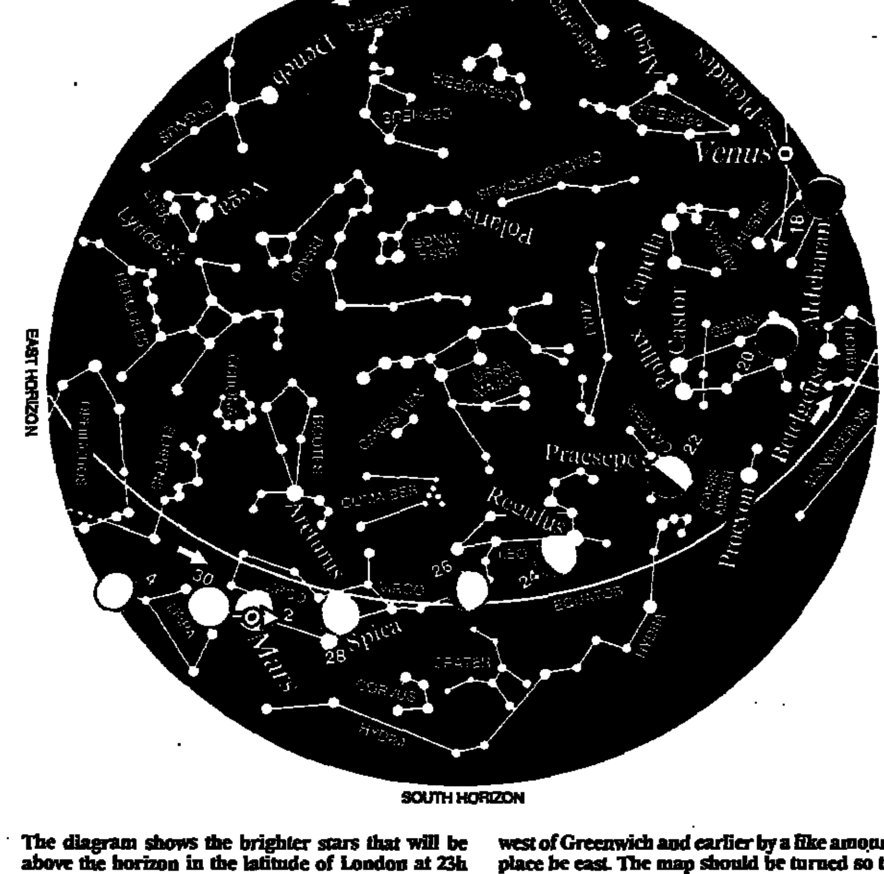
The two planets that come closest to the Earth are on display this month. Venus moves in an orbit inside that of the Earth so is closest at inferior conjunction when it passes between the Earth and Sun. Then it can come closer than any other major planet, just over 40 million km. As its orbit is almost circular this minimum distance varies little. But in late April it will not be near inferior conjunction and will be more than 150 million km away.

The nearest outer planet is Mars. An outer planet can never be at inferior conjunction, closest approach being near opposition, when the planet is in the opposite part of the sky to the Sun. Then they line up Sun, Earth and planet.

Mars is at opposition on the 24th in Virgo but will not be at its closest until 1st May. Because the orbit of Mars is more elliptical than that of the Earth or Venus, the least distance from the Sun and Earth varies from opposition to opposition, from 56 million km to 100 million km. The brightness of Mars and its apparent size as seen through a telescope vary with its distance. So when it has a close or perihelic opposition it can appear nearly twice as large as at an aphelic opposition. On 1st May the distance will be about 87 million km, not particularly favourable for telescopic observers.

Mars takes 687 days (about 23 months) to complete a revolution about the Sun, during which time the Earth has made 1.9 revolutions. The next opposition will occur when the Earth overtakes Mars. This takes another three months making Mars' synodic period (from opposition to opposition) 780 days. So oppositions of Mars take place about every two years and two months with the most favourable perihelic oppositions at intervals of about 15 years.

The next perihelic opposition will be in August 2003. Unfortunately for telescopic observers in the northern hemisphere, an August opposition puts Mars low in our sky. Generally speaking the more atmosphere the light from an object has to pass through, the less steady the image, so observers in lower or southern latitudes benefit most from the perihelic oppositions. Even at its very closest, for a few days every 15 years, Mars needs a magnification of 70 times to appear as large as the Moon does with the naked eye.



The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the latitude of London at 23h (11 pm) at the beginning, 22h (10 pm) in the middle, and 21h (9 pm) at the end of the month, local mean time. At places away from the Greenwich meridian the Greenwich times at which the diagram applies are later than the above by one hour for each 15 deg west of Greenwich and earlier by a like amount if the place be east. The map should be turned so that the horizon the observer is facing (shown by the words around the circle) is at the bottom, the zenith being at the centre. Greenwich Mean Time, known to astronomers as Universal Time and expressed in 24-hour notation, is used in the accompanying notes.

Birthdays today

Lord Armstrong of Ilminster, 72; Mr Warren Beatty, actor, 62; Lord Browne-Wilkinson, 69; Mr Eric Clapton, guitarist, 54; Mr J.F. Coates, former naval architect, 77; Miss Sue Cook, broadcaster, 50; Mr Martin Dunne, Lord-Lieutenant of Warwickshire, 61; Mr George Esson, former Chief Constable, Dumfries and Galloway, 57; Miss Margaret Fingerhut, concert pianist, 44; Professor Sir Ernst Gombrich, OM, FBA, former director, Warburg Institute, 90; Mr John Gosden, racehorse trainer, 48; Sir John Gray, FRS, marine biologist, 81; Mr Rolf Harris, entertainer, 69; Mr Alan Jackson, former chief executive, BTR, 63; Sir John Jennings, former chairman, Shell Transport and Trading Company, 62; Professor Ron Johnston, former Vice-Chancellor, Essex University, 58; Professor M.A. King, FBA, Deputy Governor, Bank of England, 51; Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, 62; Mr Piers Morgan, Editor, *The Mirror*, 34; Mr Tom Sharpe, novelist, 71; the Rev David Staple, General Secretary Emeritus of the Free Churches' Council, 69; the Countess of Sutherland, 78; Lord Tanlaw, 65; General Sir Richard Trant, 71; Sir John Wells, former MP, 74; Professor A.J. Zuckerman, Dean, Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, 67.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr O.M. Bevan-Thomas and Miss K.J. Dowling
The engagement is announced between Oliver, younger son of Mr and Mrs Philip Bevan-Thomas, of Shiplake, Oxfordshire, and Katie, daughter of Lieutenant Colonel Douglas Dowling, retd, and Mrs Dowling, of Martock, Somerset.

Mr J.M. Bradley and Miss H.M. Rigby
The engagement is announced between John Martin, only son of Captain and Mrs John Bradley, of Wahroonga Orchard, Roleystone, Western Australia, and Harriet Madeleine, youngest daughter of Dr and Mrs Marcus Rigby, of Mappleborough Green, Warwickshire.

Dr R.J. Crowley and Miss A.K.S. Newington
The engagement is announced between Richard, youngest son of the late Mr Neil Crowley and of Mrs Mary Crowley, of Adelaide, South Australia, and Anna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Sam Newington, of Peterborough.

Mr W.R.V. Edwards and Miss S.E. Basire
The engagement is announced between William, son of Dermot and Jill Edwards, of Lismore, Ireland, and Susan, daughter of Ian and Allison Basire, of Paraparaumu Beach, New Zealand.

Mr J.C. Honeyborne and Miss K.S.L. Turner
The engagement is announced between James, son of Dr and Mrs Christopher Honeyborne, of Rievaulx, North Yorkshire, and Kate, daughter of Mr and Mrs Andrew Turner, of Godstone, Surrey.

Mr E.C. Kerr and Miss V.F. Home
The engagement is announced between Ewan Charles, son of the late Mr Stuart Kerr and of Mrs Lorraine Blackwell, of Salwarpe, Worcestershire, and Viola, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Gospatric Home, of Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire.

Mr A.T. Todd and Miss S.G. Griffiths
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Todd, of Little Baddow, Essex, and Sharon, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Griffiths, of Shipton Moyne, Gloucestershire.

Marriages

Major R. Ashenden and Mrs E.J. Davis
The marriage took place at St George's Church, Brockworth, Gloucestershire, on March 29, 1999, between Richard Ashenden and Liz Davis, née Semmons.

Mr S.W.T. Barber and Miss S.L. Fraser
The marriage took place on March 27, 1999, at St Mary's Church, Tysoe, between Mr Simon Barber and Miss Sophie Fraser. Mr William Wemyss was best man.

Mr A. Coats and Mrs C. Abril de Vivero
The marriage took place in Kensington, London, on March 29, between Mr Alexander Coats and Mrs Clara Abril de Vivero.

Mr D.O. Howell and Dr G.V. Rowell
The marriage took place quietly in Suffolk on Friday, March 19, of Mr David Howell to Dr Gillian Rowell, followed by a blessing in Brandeston Church in the presence of their family.

Memorial service

Sir George Waller
The Lord Chancellor was represented by Mr James Goudie, QC, at a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Sir George Waller, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 1976-84, held last night in Gray's Inn Chapel. The Rev Roger Holloway, Preacher of Gray's Inn, officiated, assisted by Canon Eric James.

Mr Richard Waller and Mr Philip Waller, grandsons, read the lessons. Mrs Virginie Waller, granddaughter, read from the works of Minnie Louise Haskins. Lord Justice Kennedy gave an address.

The Lord Chief Justice and the Master of the Rolls were present. Among others present were:

Lady Waller (widow), Sir Mark and Lady Waller (son and daughter-in-law), Professor Irvin Waller (son), Mr John and Professor Tessa Hedley Whyte (son-in-law and daughter), Mrs Richard Waller, Mrs Philip Waller, Mr Recorder Christopher Beaumont, Mrs S G Marsh, Mrs Jack Cooper, Lady Wontner, Mrs Jennifer Emery, Mrs Oliver Hacking, the Hon Bruce Hacking.

Mrs Jeremy Earl, Mr and Mrs Patrick Helps, Mr and Mrs Ian Herbert, Mr Michael Hedley Whyte, Mr and Mrs David Bowyer, Mr and Mrs Gordon Snelling, Mrs Gary Wells, Dr and Mrs Peter Copeman, Mr and Mrs Stephen Waldock, Mr William Farrer, Mr and Mrs Giles Wontner, Lady Cobb, Mr Jonathan Cobb, Lord Hacking.

Lord and Lady Lane, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Wigoder, QC, and Lady Wigoder, Sir David Croom-Johnson, Sir Iain Glidewell, Lord Justice and Lady Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Evans, Sir Anthony McCowan, Lady Kennedy, Lord Justice Otton, Sir Michael Hutchison, Lord Justice Roch, Lord Justice Mummery, Lord Justice Pill, Lord Justice Potter, Lord Justice and Lady Mantell.

Sir Stephen Brown, Lord Justice Simon Brown (representing Middle Temple), Sir John Balcombe (treasurer, Lincoln's Inn) and Lady Balcombe.

The Hon Mrs Nicholas Wallop, Lady Philips, Lady Wilson, Sir Kenneth and Lady Jones, Sir John and Lady Vinelott, Sir Anthony and Lady Hollis, Sir Anthony and Lady Ewbank, Mr Justice and Lady Cresswell, Mrs Justice Ebsworth, Sir John Thomas, Sir Ralph and Lady Kilner Brown.

Mr Martin Collins, QC (treasurer, Gray's Inn) and Mrs Collins with Mr David Machin (under-treasurer) and Mrs Machin, Mr John Plume, Mr Philip Cox, QC, His Honour Colin and Mrs Sleeman, Mrs Richard Stone, Mr Patrick Bennett, QC, and Mrs Bennett, Mr Conrad Dehn, QC, and Mrs Dehn.

His Honour Esyr Lewis, QC, Professor Anthony Jolowicz, QC, Miss Jean Southworth, QC, Mr Julian Jeffs, QC, Judge Denison, QC, and Miss Ann Curnow, QC, Mr Anthony Butcher, QC, Mr Brian Higgs, QC, Mr Michael Lewis, QC, Mr Michael Harvey, QC, and Mrs Harvey, Miss Marion Simmons, QC.

Mr Edwin Glasgow, QC, Mr John Leighton Williams, QC, Mr Stephen Silber, QC, Her Honour Nina Lowry, QC, Mr Michel Kallipetis, QC, Judge Harold Wilson, His Honour Angus Stroyan, QC, Mr Peter Mason and many other friends and former colleagues.

Luncheons

Securities Institute
Sir David Walker was the principal guest at a luncheon of the Securities Institute held yesterday at Centurion House, City of London. Mr Graham Ross Russell, chairman, presided.

Royal Over-Seas League
The High Commissioner for Australia and Mrs Flood were the guests of honour at a luncheon of the Royal Over-Seas League held yesterday at Over-Seas House, St James's. Sir Geoffrey Ellerton, chairman, and members of the central council, were the hosts.

Rotary Club of London
Mr Charles Vance was the speaker at a luncheon of the Rotary Club of London held yesterday at the Portman Hotel. Mr John Buchanan, president, was in the chair.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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Then assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and consulted that they might take Jesus by subtlety and kill him. Matthew 26.3-4(AV).

BIRTHS

AGNEW - On 23rd March to Stella (née Gilmore) and Andrew, a daughter Kitty, a sister for Megan and Elsie.

ALLEN - On Wednesday 24th March 1999, to Susan Jane (née Scarles) and Mark, a beautiful daughter, Kira Miriam, a sister for Mica.

BEVAN - On Saturday March 27th to Sophie (née Royds) and Rupert, a son.

BORROWDALE - On March 27th 1999 to Claire and Geoffrey, a son, Benedict Thomas, a brother for Elizabeth, Sarah and Nicholas. Deo Gratias.

BOYLE - On March 25th to Mark and Daphne (née Lushington), a beautiful son, Duncan Zinzan Lushington.

BRADSHAW - On March 24th at The Portland Hospital to Lola and Douglas, a beautiful daughter, Maxine, a sister for Douglas Xavier.

BROSE - On February 13th at St Thomas', London to Miranda G. and Julian S Brose, a son, Alexander James and a brother for Lucy Anoushka.

de WINTON - On March 24th to Alex and William, a son, James, a brother for Anna and John.

GUILLON-DROZ - On March 23rd at The Portland Hospital to Cecile and Francois, a son, Cesar. Both parents and brother Paul are delighted.

HYMAN - On March 22nd at The Portland Hospital to Victoria (née Poster) and John, a daughter, Nathalie Anna, a sister for Charlotte.

LEWISOHN - On March 27th 1999, to Sophia (née Collins) and Mark, a son, Oscar John, a brother for Max.

MacKICHAN - On 25th March at St Thomas' to Jessica and Ian, a son, Hugo James, a brother for Alexander and Amelia.

MAETER - On March 25th at The Portland Hospital to Tracy (née Wood) and Pascal-Andre, a son, Jacques, a brother for Sophie.

McGOWAN - On March 22nd at The Portland Hospital to Sharna and Shaun, a son, Thomas Judah. First grandson for Maureen and Sydney (Orchant).

PATTEN - On March 22nd at The Portland Hospital to Caterina and Jolyon, a daughter, Georgia.

RACZ - On 25th March to Lucy (née Burn) and Neil, a son, Harry Laszlo Robert.

ROWSE - On 24th March, to Georgina (née Booth) and Mark, a son, Milo Sebastian, a brother for Oliver, Benjamin and Tara.

STUART - On March 25th 1999 at The Portland Hospital to Anne (née Bogart) and Peter, a daughter, Eleanor.

VICKERS - On March 25th 1999 at Yeovil to Carinna and Tom, a daughter, Katharine (Kitty) Amy.

WICKHAM - On March 26th to Anne and Christopher, a daughter, Charlotte Anne, a sister for Adam. 107 Holt Avenue, Mosman, 2088 NSW, Australia.

WILLIAMS - On March 25th at The Portland Hospital, to Alexandra (née Heseltine) and Nicholas, a daughter, Augusta Alice Douglas, a sister for Molly.

WILSON - On March 22nd at The Portland Hospital to Michelle (née Caldwell) and Mark, a beautiful daughter, Phoebe Amber, a sister to Katie.

DEATHS

BAYLEY - Ann. On 27th March, peacefully in the Chaucer Hospital, Canterbury, after a long illness, bravely borne, Ann Chater, aged 56. Funeral service, family only. Memorial Service at St George's Church, Benenden on Saturday, 15th May at 4.30pm. No flowers, donations welcome, payable to Imperial Cancer Research c/ J Perigoe & Son, Bank Street, Cranbrook, Kent, TN17 3EF. 01580 713636.

BELCH - Suddenly at home, on 28th March 1999, Alexander Ross, Kt., C.B.E., LL.D. Dearly beloved husband of Dorothy West, and the late Janette Murdoch, much loved father of Ann, Jill, Patricia and Barbara and a dearly loved grandfather. A service will be held in Old Gourock & Ashton Parish Church, Royal Street, Gourock, on Wednesday 31st March at 12 noon to which all friends are invited. Funeral thereafter private. Family flowers only please.

BROOKE - Wing Commander Bertram Brooke OBE RAF (Rt'd) on 26th March 1999. Peacefully at Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester. Beloved husband of Joyce and adored father of Sarah and Sophia. Funeral Service 15.30 1st April 1999 at St Swithun's Church, Headbourne Worthy, Winchester, Hampshire. No flowers. Donations, if desired, to RAF Benevolent Fund c/o Jno Steel, 4 Cheail Street, Winchester, Hampshire.

BUTLER - Nigel and Angela (née Charteris). Tragically in Harare on 24th March. Beloved son of the late David and Joanna Butler and darling daughter of David and the late Mary Charteris. Devoted and adored parents of Katie, Sabrina, Belinda and Joanna. Much loved brother of Rhett and darling sister of Helen and Nigel. Funeral to take place in Harare on Wednesday 31st March. Donations if desired to Vana Vadu Found. c/o M. Ashburner, Pru Bache Secs Inc. 1-3 The Strand, London WC2N 5EJ.

CALLANDER - Major Henry Ronald Burn, MC (Ronnie) aged 77, on 26th March 1999. Much loved husband of Joan, father of Sarah, Victoria and Gigi, and grandfather of Peregrine, Benjamin, Bettina and Alexander. Funeral at Crichton Collegiate Church, Crichton, Pathhead, Midlothian at 2.00pm on Wednesday 31st March.

de Carteret NEWMAN - (née Stone), Fiona Ann, killed instantly in a tragic car accident in Great Dunmow on Sunday 21st March 1999. A Memorial mass will be held for Fiona and prayers offered for the friends who died with her at The Sacred Heart Church, Edge Hill, Wimbledon on Wednesday 31st March at 10.00am All her friends are invited. Private cremation afterwards.

EVERITT - Sally peacefully in hospital in Dublin, widow of Michael Everitt, on 25th March. Funeral at parish church Waltham-on-the-Wold, Leicestershire, 12 noon on Thursday 8th April. Family flowers only, donations may be sent to Irish Cancer Research Foundation or Endorphin Release Clinics Ltd c/o Alan Geeson Funeral Service, 32 Westgate, Grantham, NG31 6LY.

GARDNER - Richard Exton "Jimmy" OBE, DSC. Died peacefully at his home on March 26th aged 84. Beloved husband of Jeanne and much loved father of Nigel, Anthony and Michael. Grandfather to Sophie, Charlotte, Andrew, Nicholas, Christopher and Camilla, father-in-law to Joanna, Lee and Jackie. The funeral will be private, family only, shortly after Easter. Flowers to Masters and Sons, Lewes Road, Lindfield, West Sussex RH16 2LE.

GRIERSON - Marian (Rene), landscape architect, died peacefully at home in the care of her husband Richard, on 27th March. Her sons Miles and Bruce Thompson and her family welcome friends to celebrate her life at St Margaret's Church, Lee SE3 on 6th April at 2.00pm. No flowers please. Donations for a Bursary at Wye College.

HAY - Mary Carnegie (née McAusland), widow of Sir Robert died peacefully on 29th March 1999 aged 90 years, will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral Service at St Marys Church, Crosthwaite, Kendal on Wednesday 7th April at 11.00am followed by cremation at Lancaster. Family flowers only, donations if so desired to St Marys Church c/o A. G. Clarke, The Ashes, Cartmel Fell, Grange-over-Sands LA11 6NU. Tel 015395 31481.

HODSON - Henry Vincent (Harry) died peacefully 27th March. Much loved husband of Margaret Elizabeth and father of Nicholas, Anthony, Daniel and Charles. Will be sadly missed by his family and many friends. Funeral at Chelsea Old Church Wednesday 31st March 11.00 am. Memorial Service to be arranged. Family flowers only.

HOLLAND - March 26th suddenly at home Lt Col Peter late 16th/5th Queens Royal Lancers aged 76, beloved husband of Tricia and father of Christopher and Timothy. Funeral 1st April 2.30pm St Agatha's, Gilling West, North Yorkshire. Family flowers only. Donations to Injured Jockeys Fund, P.O. Box 9, Newmarket, CB8 7SH.

HUNT - Roland Charles Colin C.M.G. on March 24th aged 83 after a final stroke. Beloved husband of Pauline for 50 years (who died 1989) and father of Julian, Simon, Tessa, Clive and Perdita and much loved and respected father-in-law and grandfather. Funeral Thursday April 8th, 3.30 pm at St Cross, Holywell, Oxford.

ILIFFE - Cedric Euan C.Eng. F.I.MechE. O.B.E. died peacefully at home on March 28th, loved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral at Exeter Crematorium Wednesday April 7th at 10.30am. Family flowers only, please send donations to The Benevolent Fund of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers.

KERRICH - Marjorie, wife of Dr Geoffrey John, on 26th March in Guildford. Mother of Thomas, Mary and Robert.

MAITLAND-MAKGILL-CRICHTON - Diana. Peacefully at home on 23rd March 1999 after a battle with illness, fought with great courage. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Kingston Deverill, at 3.00 pm on Wednesday 21st April 1999. No flowers, and cheerful clothing, by her request; donations to The Injured Jockeys Fund.

MERRIMAN - Of Whitfield, Cdr. John Harvey (ret'd), Master Mariner, on 26th March 1999 aged 83 years. Husband of Muriel, father of Jane, Martin, Fergus and Ruth, grandfather of Hereward, Sarah, Dominic, Lalage and Virginia, great-grandfather of Nicola Jane. A private service will take place at his request at Mountsett Crematorium. Donations in lieu of flowers to the R.N.L.I.

MITCHELL - John. Passed peacefully away at home on 25th March, aged 85. He will be greatly missed by Valerie and Norman, Andrew and his grandchildren, Alison and Paul. Funeral service will be held at Chelmsford Crematorium, on Tuesday 6th April 1999 at 1.30pm.

NORRIS - James David Wilson, peacefully at home after a long illness on Friday 26th March, aged 36. Much loved husband of Lynn and father of Kirsty and Madison, beloved son of Josephine and James Norris and brother of John. Funeral at London Road Crematorium, Emstrey Island, Shrewsbury on Monday 12th April at 3.20pm. No flowers by request. Donations to The Shropshire and Mid Wales Hospice, Bicton Heath, Shrewsbury.

NYE - Owen Charles Nye of Wymondley Nursing Home, formerly of Knebworth, Hertfordshire, who passed away peacefully on March 25th 1999. Beloved husband of the late "Wyn", loving father of four children and grandfather of five. Funeral service at the Church of St Mary and St Thomas of Canterbury, Knebworth Park, on Tuesday 6th April at 1.45pm followed by committal at Harwood Park Crematorium Stevenage. Family flowers only by request. Donations in memory of Owen for the Macmillan Cancer Relief may be sent c/o Austins Funeral Service, 9-11 Letchmore Road, Stevenage SG1 3JH. Tel 01438 316623.

PARSONS - Captain Raymond Henry R.N. ret'd, died peacefully on 24th March 1999. Sadly missed by his sons Alastair and Jonathan and his family. Funeral on Tuesday 6th April 1999 at Portchester Crematorium at 2.30pm. No flowers. Memorial to be announced.

PETROVITCH - Suddenly in Spain on March 28th Michael Petrovitch, beloved only son of Eileen Petrovitch and the late Dr Milorad Petrovitch.

PIPER - Margaret Ruth (née Bedford), suddenly on 27th March at home in Kilifi, Kenya. Loving friend of David, dear sister of Frances and Priscilla, and aunt to Philippa, Cathy and Peter. A Service of Thanksgiving in Devon to be arranged. All enquiries to Priscilla Hannam 01803 844276.

RICHARDSON - Lady. Octavia Joyce (Paddy) on Friday 26th March, 1999 peacefully at home after a long illness, bravely borne. Much loved wife, mother and grandmother. Funeral at 3.00pm on Tuesday 6th April at St Mary the Virgin, Shipley, West Sussex. Followed by private service of committal. Family flowers only please.

SANDALL - Arthur died March 26th aged 86, after a short illness in Grantham General Hospital. Much loved husband of Irene, father of Robert and Mary, grandfather of Sophie and Rory. Funeral at Grantham Crematorium. March 31st at 11am.

SHELL - Surg. Cmdr. Geoffrey Norman, retired. Died 27th March after an illness. Funeral Thursday April 1st 11.00am at Holy Cross Church, Newton Ferrers followed by private cremation. No flowers please. Donations appreciated for "Holy Cross Church" c/o A. James Brothers, The Grindstone, Brixton, Plymouth PL8 2BW.

SMITH - Audrey, devoted wife of the late Eric Steward Smith J.P., F.R.I.B.A., and beloved mother of Jennifer and Susan, died peacefully after a long illness on Friday 26th March 1999. Service of Thanksgiving at Reading Crematorium on Wednesday 7th April at 1.15pm. No flowers at her request but donations if so desired for the N.S.P.C.C. may be sent to A.B. Walker & Son Ltd, 36 Eldon Road, Reading, RG1 4DL.

SMITH - Olive, 93, died peacefully at Nelson Mandela House, Wolverhampton, on March 25th. Burial service at Bethany Chapel, Wednesfield, Thursday April 1st at 11.30 am. Donations to Wolverhampton Branch of the Alzheimers Disease Society.

TABOR - Joel Tabor died suddenly at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, London W2 on 12th March 1999 aged 82 years. Funeral will be held at West London Crematorium, Harrow Road, on Thursday 8th April 1999 at 2 pm. Contact John Nodes & Sons Ltd. Funeral Directors, 181 Ladbroke Grove, London W10, tel: (0181) 969-1819.

VANREENEN - Peacefully on 25th March 1999 after a short illness Major John Gordon Vanreenen R.E. (rtd) beloved husband of Lydia and dear father of Lorna and Morag and grandfather of Alice, Robert and Juliet. Service at Mortonhall Crematorium Main Chapel, Edinburgh on Tuesday 6th April at 11.00am to which all friends are invited. Family flowers only.

WARD - (Captain) Ernest Victor FRIM, MBE, OBE, died in his sleep in Cyprus aged 80 on 26th March. Formerly of the Gilbert Islands and Devon. Funeral held in Cyprus on 29th March. Sadly missed by all his family. Any enquiries 01206 541720.

WILSON - Thomas Henry OBE, OstJ, TD, MB, BS, FRCS, LRCP. Aged 94 peacefully on March 26th 1999 at Esperance Hospital, Eastbourne. Beloved husband of Valerie, loving father to Anthea, Crichton and Sandra, Grandpa to Petrina, Richard, Jacqueline and Susannah, Mark and Neil; Grandpa Tom to the great-grandchildren. Funeral service private. Thanksgiving service at St Johns Church, St Johns Road, Meads, Eastbourne on Wednesday April 14th 1999 at noon. Donations in lieu of flowers to St Johns Ambulance c/o Hailsham Funeral Service, 11 Station Road, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 2BE.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

HILL/SHANNON HILL - In memory of Henry who would have been eight today. Happy Birthday darling. Mummy, Daddy, Livvie and Kate. We love you Henny.

GEORGE ROSS GOOBEY


Goobey: championed equities over gilts

George Ross Goobey, pension fund manager, died on March 19 aged 87. He was born on May 21, 1911.

George Ross Goobey was a stock market legend. Often referred to fondly in City circles as "the father of the equity", or "the man who inverted the yield curve", Ross Goobey pioneered the notion that shares are a better long-term investment than fixed-interest government stocks.

He proved his point when he was pension fund manager for Imperial Tobacco. Before Ross Goobey, companies had preferred not to invest in shares — especially not pension funds, which were deemed to belong in the safety of gilt-edged securities. In 1948 he persuaded Imperial Tobacco to take its money out of gilts and put it into shares, arguing that even in times of deflation or low inflation company dividends would rise in real terms. It was a radical move, met by considerable opposition within the City. But he was proved right as inflation eroded the return from gilts, leaving equities to steam ahead. Within a few years the yield gap became the reverse yield gap as investors drove up equity prices and Government debased gilts. He later remarked that at that time he felt like a child in a sweet shop who had discovered everything on sale at knock-down prices.

George Ross Goobey was a natural competitor, unafraid to go against the grain. Born in Poplar, East London, the son of a nonconformist preacher, he attended school at Christ's Hospital and entered the actuarial profession because his father could not afford to send him to university. He took several years to qualify, spending a large part of the 1930s indulging his enthusiasm for playing cricket, tennis and rugby, at which he represented the Eastern Counties.

He joined the Imperial Tobacco pension fund in 1947 as its first in-house actuary. At this time the stock market's valuation of equities was distorted by the experience of the 1929 crash. In the Great Depression, many companies had either slashed their dividends or gone out of business altogether. Because the corporate sector was held to be so unreliable, shares yielded more on invested capital than gilts.

Ross Goobey argued that since the economy was growing — and with it the corporate sector — dividends and share prices would grow in tandem. Shares were therefore intrinsically worth more than bonds, he concluded. He regarded the 2½ per cent government stock being issued by the then Labour administration as a swindle, given that inflation was 4 per cent. He insisted that, by comparison, a spread of ordinary shares yielding more than 4 per cent, and promising potential income growth in future, was positively cheap. Ross Goobey had initiated the era of the modern fund-management industry.

It was not easy to persuade the trustees of Imperial Tobacco to let him make the change; at that time pensions meant safety and safety meant gilts. Nevertheless he stuck to his guns. The cult of equity was born, and the rest of the industry was forced to follow Ross Goobey's lead. As it did so, the so-called "reverse yield gap", whereby supposedly higher-risk equities yield less than gilts, became one of the constants of modern investment, though it has narrowed in recent years.

At its peak the Imperial Tobacco pension fund had around 1,000 equity holdings, mostly in small to medium-sized companies. But Ross Goobey was never rigid in his investment approach. In the late 1960s he decided that equities were expensive compared to property. Imperial duly changed the direction of its funds, investing in the Royal Garden Hotel in Kensington and Moor House in London Wall. In the stock market slump of 1974 Ross Goobey advocated investment once more in gilts: War Loan on a yield of more than 16 per cent was particularly attractive to tax-exempt pension funds.

There was the occasional misjudgment. He encouraged the Imperial pension fund to purchase Gateway House in London's Cannon Street in 1973, at the height of the property boom. The investment was to prove justified in the longer term, but had the fund waited just a little longer the property could have been bought for significantly less.

Ross Goobey himself never became enormously wealthy, though he was to hold a number of City directorships. He remainied at Imperial Tobacco until his retirement, and collected his pension for the last 24 years of his life. Earlier this year Imperial Tobacco closed its in-house fund-management arm.

George Ross Goobey married his wife Gladys in 1937. He is survived by her, a daughter and a son, Alastair Ross Goobey, who runs the fund manager Hermes.

GIDEON RAFAEL

Gideon Rafael, Israeli diplomat, died on February 10 aged 85. He was born on March 5, 1913.

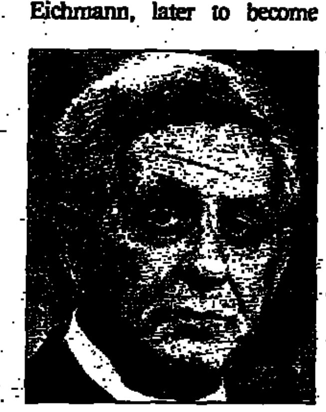
ONE of the founding fathers of Israeli diplomacy, Gideon Rafael was appointed his country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in May 1967 in the middle of the fraught period before the outbreak of the Six-Day War. Both then, as Israel cast about to find international support for a pre-emptive strike against its encircling enemies, and afterwards, when he had to bear the brunt of Soviet wrath as the magnitude of the Israeli victory over an enemy armed with Russian weapons became clear, he needed all his experience and a cool head, as the UN Security Council chamber became a cauldron of angry emotions and accusations.

As pressure mounted for a resolution demanding a ceasefire, Rafael was charged with two tasks by Israel's Foreign Minister, Ebba Eban. The first was to delay the passing of such a resolution by half a day, so as to allow Israel to extend its conquests in Syria and Jordan. The second was to try to ensure that when any such resolution finally was passed, it should not include the usual UN formula demanding withdrawal from occupied territory.

In both these aims the wily Israeli envoy was successful. Rafael, as the Soviet Ambassador to the UN put it, sat "five hours among us and openly misled the Council, trying to play for time for the annexationist purposes of the Israeli hordes". In fact, Rafael prevaricated in the Security Council for nearly two days, buying time for Israel to complete its seizure of the strategically vital Golan Heights before a ceasefire resolution could be passed. And when the resolution came it made no mention of return to the status quo.

Gideon Rafael was born Gideon Ruffer in Berlin into a family of prosperous furriers. A young man of 20 when Hitler came to power, he left Germany for France and thence made his way to Palestine, then under the British Mandate.

Later he was sent back to Europe by the clandestine Jewish military organisation Haganah, to try to negotiate the passage of 40,000 Jews to Palestine from Germany. These talks, held with Adolf Eichmann, later to become



infamous as the executant of the "Final Solution", were fruitless.

From 1943, as a member of the Jewish Agency Political Department, Rafael worked in co-operation with British Intelligence, screening the influx of Jewish refugees entering Palestine via Turkey and Syria (it was feared some might be German spies). At the end of the war he was in charge of preparing the Jewish case for the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal, and on the eve of Israel's independence he was part of the Jewish Agency Mission to the UN Special Commission for Palestine.

With the precipitate birth of Israel in 1948, he and Moshe Sharett, soon to become Israel's first Foreign Minister, found themselves constituting the entire Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the new state. But when they tried to announce their country's birth to the world, they found that their nascent ministry did not possess the cash to pay for the telegrams to be sent out, and that a stubborn clerk at the Tel Aviv Post Office would only accept British authorisation for them to be sent without charge.

Rafael was thus in at the start of Israeli diplomacy, and spent the early 1950s on Israeli delegations to the UN, returning there in 1967 after a variety of diplomatic postings, which included Ambassador to Belgium and Luxembourg and representative to the EEC.

In the wake of the Six-Day War he returned to Israel as Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and in the wake of Israel's next Arab war, the Yom Kippur War of 1973, he was appointed Ambassador to Britain and Ireland.

His arrival in Britain did not come at an auspicious time. Israel had not taken kindly to a British embargo on arms during the Yom Kippur conflict. It resented what it not unreasonably regarded as the particularly spiteful withholding of spares for the Israeli Army's British-made Centurion tanks. But things improved over the next few years, and when he returned to Israel in 1977 it was against a background of relative harmony.

He retired in 1978, but he continued to act as adviser to the Foreign Ministry and held various visiting professorships. He also wrote a great deal. *Destination Peace: Three Decades of Israeli Foreign Policy* appeared in 1981 and *The Impact of the Six-Day War* in 1990.

Gideon Rafael married, in 1940, Nurit Weissberg. They had two sons and a daughter.

GROUP CAPTAIN C. K. SAXELBY

Group Captain C. K. Saxelby, CBE, DFC, AFC and Bar, bomber and test pilot, died on March 21 aged 77. He was born on October 27, 1921.

TYPICAL of that generation of New Zealanders who rallied to Britain in its hour of need, Clive King Saxelby was a brilliant and brave bomber pilot and went on to be an outstanding RAF test pilot, bringing the Victor nuclear bomber into service. Determined, of few words, and a clear thinker, he also played a key Air Staff role in restructuring the RAF's commands in the 1960s.

Born at Woodlands, near Invercargill in New Zealand's South Island, Saxelby, like many young Kiwis, joined the RNZAF in mid-1939 even before war was declared. He gained his pilot's wings a few weeks after his 18th birthday. In 1940 he was commissioned in the RAF, and joined 75 Squadron (Kiwi) which had been formed to fly back home the Wellington bombers which had been purchased by the New Zealand Government. In the event the aircraft stayed in Britain and fought the Germans.

Proving an exceptional pilot, at 19 Saxelby made one of the first long-range Wellington raids, on Turin. In 1941 in raids over Germany he was mentioned in dispatches, and he was awarded the DFC for two exceptional incidents of gallantry. Over Karlsruhe one of the engines of his Wellington was set on fire by an incendiary dropped from a formation which was flying above him. Despite being an immediate target for heavy flak, "with great coolness", according to the citation, Saxelby turned off the fuel, and ran the engine dry before shutting it down. He then dropped his bombload and turned for home on one engine. With the fire out he managed to restart the damaged engine, but then had to land back at base on one wheel as his undercarriage was damaged.

On a second occasion, returning from Cologne he was attacked by a nightfighter, which killed his second pilot and wounded his reargunner. The fighter's cannon shells also damaged the bomber so badly that undercarriage and bomb doors fell down and sent the aircraft out of control. Although unable to see and choked by fumes, Saxelby regained control but was chased by another nightfighter down to 300 ft, where he was able to evade his pursuer. He managed it back to base for "an excellent crash-landing", in the words of the citation.

In April 1942 he was posted to 103 Squadron, the unit that led the way for the RAF's 1,000-bomber night raids against the German industrial heartland. He was not yet 21 but was already an acting squadron leader.

Only a month after the award of his DFC, on the night of September 6, his Halifax bomber was shot down over Düsseldorf. He was first reported missing and then confirmed as a PoW at Stalag Luft 3. There he took part in the mass escape attempt in the spring of 1944, which ended largely in failure and resulted in Hitler's order for the massacre of 50 Allied airmen. Saxelby had taken part in the 12 months' work on the 300-ft tunnel and drew exit lot 82. With number 78 crawling away, shooting broke out and the others ahead of Saxelby on the ladder turned back, and so he survived.

After the war his career blossomed. Within eight weeks of his return to Britain he was flying again, and for


Saxelby: exceptional bomber and test pilot

the next year he commanded the legendary 617 Squadron (Dambusters). But his brilliance commended him to the Empire Test Pilots School at Farnborough, where he qualified as a jet test pilot in 1948.

He was sent to the Aeroplane and Armament Experimental Establishment at Boscombe Down, where he was selected as test pilot for the introduction of the Handley Page Victor bomber, which was to be the spearhead for Britain's first-generation nuclear deterrent strike force. He was awarded the AFC in 1952, and a Bar in 1958 after serving a second tour at Boscombe Down as Wing Commander B Squadron.

He next attended the Staff College, Bracknell, and No 1 Air Warfare Course at Manby, following which, in 1961, he commanded the Coastal Command station RAF Ballykelly, in Northern Ireland. For upgrading it to one of the most efficient in the command, he was appointed CBE, an award which also owed something to his promotion of good local community relations.

He was then posted to the Ministry of Defence, where he played a major role in the radical and contentious restructuring of the RAF in the mid-1960s. He served with the Deputy Director (Maritime Ops) when, under the Wilson Labour Government, all seven RAF commands were locked in battles with Airplans who wanted to reduce the command total to three. This meant abolishing Fighter, Bomber, Coastal and Transport Commands, with all their illustrious traditions. Saxelby is credited with having helped to cut through the arguments with trenchant thinking, and helping the planners to reduce the commands to this number within a year. In doing so he did not endear himself to many air marshals.

His reward was to spend a year at the Imperial Defence College, which is designed to prepare candidates for Air Officer rank. He passed the course but to his own and friends' disappointment he was not further promoted, and in 1969 he resigned his commission and left the RAF.

He later worked for Handley Page, who doubtless cherished his skill in bringing the Victor into service, and later for Plessey.

His first wife, Janet, died in 1989 and his second, Jennifer, in 1993. He is survived by the son of his first marriage.

STANLEY DANCE

Stanley Dance, jazz critic and author, died in California on February 23 aged 88. He was born in Braintree, Essex, on September 15, 1910.

BETWEEN his first article for the French magazine *Le Jazz Hot* in 1935 to his final book reviews for the American *Jazz Times* late last year, Stanley Dance established himself as the longest-serving jazz critic in history, yet he disliked whole tracts of the music intensely, starting with the modern jazz of the 1940s. In his first full-length book, *Jazz Era: The Forties*, published in 1961, he wrote damningly of the "twisted incoherence" of that decade's new music, a view from which he did not deviate for the rest of his life. Yet Dance was taken seriously, because through innumerable articles, four volumes of collected interviews and two full-length ghosted autobiographies, he established himself as the most prolific oral historian in jazz.

His credentials were further enhanced by considerable success as a record producer (a career shared by his wife, Helen Oakley Dance), and by his long-term association with two principal characters in the evolution of jazz, Duke Ellington and Earl Hines. He first met them in the 1930s, and through a long-running column called "Lightly and Politely" in the British magazine *Jazz Journal*, he became the Boswell of the Ellington band.

In the 1960s he was the unofficial manager for Earl Hines, and he amassed a rare archive of recordings as the pianist filled up his taped letters with something improvised at the keyboard.

Stanley Frank Dance attended Framlingham College and started writing about jazz in his mid-twenties. He moved to America in 1937, returning there for good in 1959.

During the swing era, he was a writer of perception and balance, and he quickly established himself as a critic for the *New York Herald Tribune*, the *Saturday Review*, *Down Beat* and other magazines. Musicians opened up to him, and related strings of vivid details about the early days of jazz, and his main achievement was to record this information while the sources were still voluble.

From 1948, in his regular *Jazz Journal* column, he documented the Ellington band's progress in pedantically numbered paragraphs. Always employing the royal "we" to describe himself, he charted the gradual erosion of the jazz he loved, following the emergence of bebop, rhythm'n' blues and soul. His combative streak made the column vastly entertaining, never more so than when he was defending his own work. When the Washington writer Martin Williams criticised Dance's four-LP reissue of Jimmie Lunceford's band, he tore into Williams, and such spats kept the column lively and some distance from the genteel manners implied by its title.

Dance occasionally revived his columnn after 1976, but from 1980 he wrote mainly for the American *Jazz Times*, retiring as its book review editor last autumn.

Before falling and breaking his hip in January, he had been enthusiastically awaiting this year's Ellington centenary, but complications set in and he contracted pneumonia. He is survived by his wife and four children.

ON THIS DAY

March 30, 1973

The United States' involvement in Vietnam began in 1956 with advice and aid to the Government of Ngo Dinh Diem. More than 50,000 Americans later died in the country

Last troops leave Vietnam in grim and silent file

FROM PETER HAZELHURST
SAIGON, MARCH 29

They came to Vietnam over the years as brash and exuberant young American soldiers with the naive confidence that they could succeed where the French had failed.

They left today — a line of grim and silent tall men filing past the diminutive figures of Vietcong and North Vietnamese officers in drab green uniforms who were on the tarmac of the former United States Tan Son Nhut air base to record and photograph the departure of the last American soldiers from Vietnam.

As the last group of soldiers began to board the C130 transport aircraft, they were given another bitter reminder that they have neither won the war nor a peace. Within 50 yards of the aircraft South Vietnamese peasants were beginning to gather round rows of coffins covered with the South Vietnamese national flag to collect their dead. With fixed stares and an air of embarrassment, the long line of Americans filed slowly towards the gangplank and past communist representatives of the joint military commission, who were allowed to check the withdrawal of the last group of 2,501 servicemen today.

The head of the North Vietnamese observer team, Colonel Bui Tin, stood at the gangplank counting the departing Americans while North Vietnamese and Vietcong photographers smiled politely as they filmed America's final withdrawal from Vietnam.

Colonel Tin made occasional attempts to shake hands with the departing United States officers, but in most cases he was ignored. As one young GI filed past, Colonel Tin took his hand and said: "Peace and friendship." Embarrassed, the tall GI smiled weakly and replied: "Peace."

Others were bitter. Colonel Binar Himma, a Special Forces Ranger officer who emigrated from communist Europe 20 years ago, muttered: "Under communism, peace means domination." Another officer, his face contorted with rage as the Vietcong photographed him, uttered an obscenity and boarded the aircraft.

As the final four Americans were about to board the military jet aircraft, Colonel Tin thrust a gift, a straw mat with a painting of a pagoda in Hanoi and a set of Ho Chi Minh postcards, into the hands of the last man in the queue, Sergeant Max Beilke.

Sergeant Beilke looked down at the officer, accepted the gift, and without a word climbed into the aircraft.

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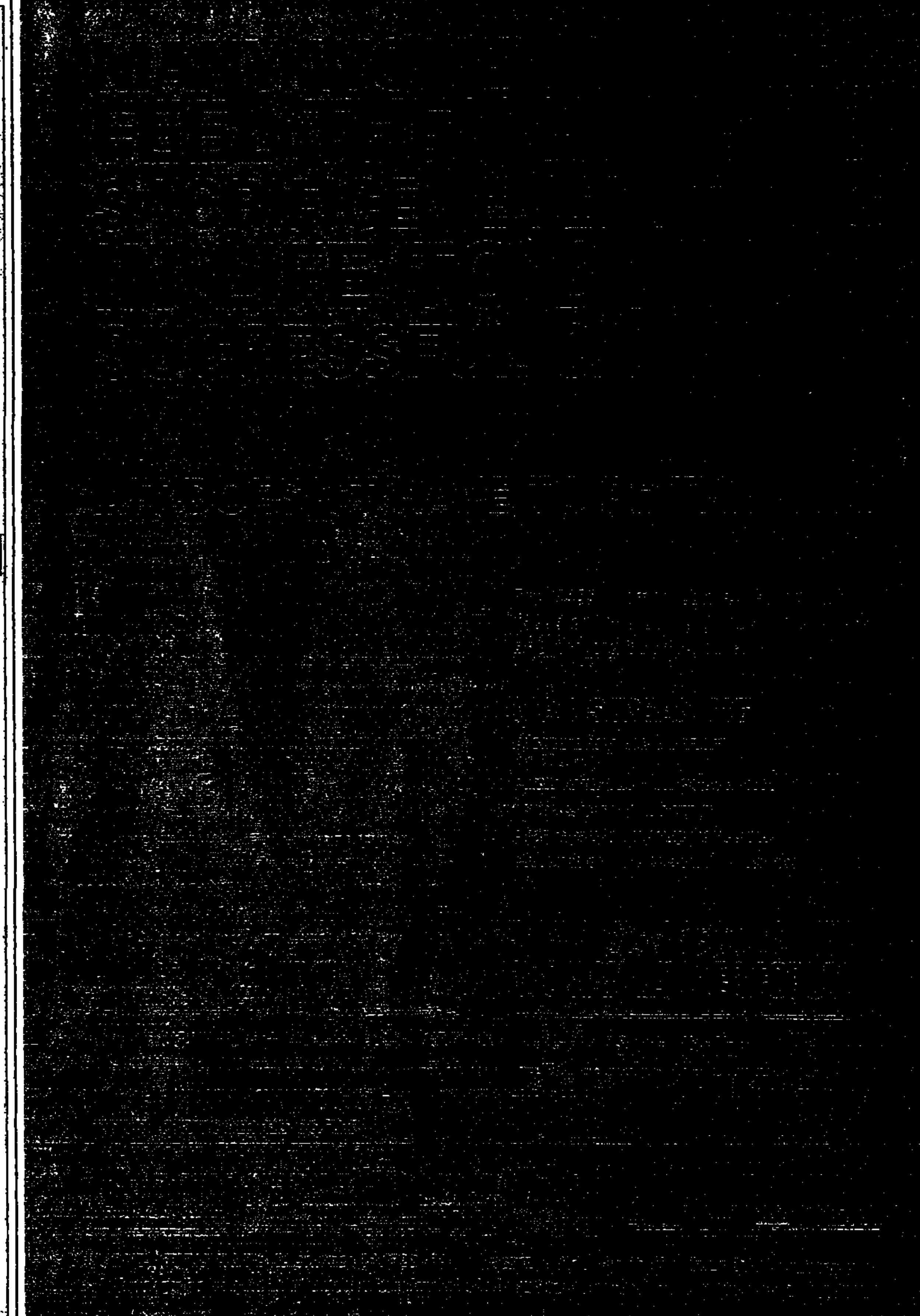
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Profit from a passage to India — and elsewhere

Henrietta Lake reports on better support for exporters

SEAN PAGET · NTI



Stewart Halstead: "Perhaps the message about what export help is available is not getting through as well as it should"

Exporting may be a sensitive issue in the business community at the moment: Britain's trade gap with the EU is expanding, exports have fallen to their lowest level in four years and sterling is reaching record highs. But small and medium-sized firms know that they cannot afford to ignore the opportunities and are working hard to grab sales outside the UK.

The Government has acknowledged that it is not providing the best support for these firms. Earlier this month the Foreign Office announced the foundation of British Trade International (BTI).

The new organisation will co-ordinate export services for businesses, ensuring that the £220 million of public funds allocated to promoting exports is better spent, that campaigns are better targeted and most importantly that the turf war between the Department of Trade and Industry and the Foreign Office over administering that support is ended.

Sir David Wright, currently Ambassador to Tokyo, will return to the UK on May 4 to take the helm of the new unified body and, over the subsequent six months, he plans to restructure the delivery of export assistance at a regional level through Business Links and the new Small Business Service. He will also oversee a marketing drive to raise BTI's visibility so that businesses know where to go for help.

Richard Somerset is sales manager of M4 Data, a designer and manufacturer of computer hardware. He has just returned from a trade mission to India organised by the British Chambers of Commerce and supported by the DTI. He said: "Now I'm on the DTI exporters list I am deluged with information from all sorts of countries. I've made the contacts I need. Now I wish they would just let me get on with it."

A DTI spokeswoman acknowledged that this was a common concern: "The BTI will address the current problem of competition between different desks at the DTI."

"Rather than receiving information about the benefits of exporting to Turkey one day, and the next, more paper saying no, Azerbaijan is the place you want to be, exporters will be able to telephone a call centre and say this is my product, where are the best export opportunities?"

Attention will be focused on 15 countries that have been identified as having particularly good opportunities rather than the 80 "priority" areas that are currently promoted. The trade mission scheme, Export Explorer, will be extended. The package, costing £99, plus discounted travel and accommodation costs, covers the visit, contacts, country information and follow-up.

The idea is to develop a co-ordinated national strategy on exporting and to sign up other organisations such as the BCC, the Institute of Export and the Confederation of British Industry, which already organise their own export services.

The BCC currently runs a successful scheme called Partenariat with EU and DTI support. Earlier this month it organised a mission to Delhi in India, one of the 15 countries that will become a BTI priority.

It was the first trade mission that Stewart Halstead, managing director of Reliant Cars in Bruntwood, Staffordshire, had been on. He said: "I heard about the trip through a contact I already have in India. Perhaps the message about what export help is available is not getting through as well as it should. You need to use your initiative and go out and look yourself."

Mr Halstead, who employs 60 people and has a turnover of £6 million, 10 per cent of which comes from exports, wanted to find contacts to whom to market Reliant's expertise in fibreglass, and to seek cost-saving components.

"I was overrun with interested firms at the exhibition," he said. "It is very easy to be overawed, so it is important to go armed with a very focused idea of what you want. I achieved everything I had come here for and was very impressed by the whole operation."

The 45 British delegates were given talks on market and legal issues, and interpreters and consultants who had already done business in India were on hand to offer advice. The main exhibition lasted two days and delegates were provided with a brochure with information about all the companies involved. However, one delegate suggested that it would have been useful to have had more detailed descriptions so that they could be more discriminiating about the firms that they wanted to see. Flights were flexible so delegates could arrange more meetings before or after the main event.

The whole trip cost delegates between £2,000 and £2,500, depending on how long they stayed in India. This included discounted hotel bills and air fares, and most firms will receive a £400 grant from the DTI towards travel costs.

Mr Somerset said: "It would have cost me another £1,000 at least to have organised the trip on my own."

M4 Data, which has a turnover of £15 million, 70 per cent coming from export sales, has been hit hard by the slump in Far East. The business has lost between £3 million and £4 million in sales since 1997. Mr Somerset, whose exports to India are already worth £1 million, wants to increase this by 50 per cent, diversifying the company's export markets beyond its current concentration on the US.

"I received a lot of good advice on the trip, in particular about new methods of payment," he said.

"I achieved more than I had anticipated, finding new partners to sell our products. There are so many opportunities due to lack of competition out there. Discussions with these contacts will now start in earnest. Come back and see me in six months' time when the real test begins and we start shipping goods. But I'm fairly optimistic."

Contact: Department of Trade and Industry 0171-215 5000 (ask for the country desk you need); British Chambers of Commerce 0171-565 2000.

TRADE MISSIONS

When (start date)	Place	Organiser	Contact
April 15	Dallas, USA	BCC	01203 694484
May 10	Vienna, Austria	BCC	01203 694484
June 20	Brussels, Belgium	DTI	01228 771000
June 20	Oslo, Norway	DTI	01608 734200
June 20	Reykjavik, Iceland	DTI	01241 2282307
June 27	Amsterdam, Netherlands	DTI	0121-807 0116
September 23	Belfast, N.Ireland	BCC	01203 694484
October 28	Potsdam, Germany	BCC	01203 694484

LINKS

WEBSITE: www.dti.gov.uk
www.bcc.org.uk

IN BRIEF

Table highlights late payers

■ If you want to be paid on time, avoid football clubs. This is one of the messages in payment performance tables for more than 2,500 of Britain's largest companies, which are published today by the Federation of Small Businesses.

The tables, based on analysis of annual company reports by Dun & Bradstreet, the business information group, are the first to be published as a result of regulations requiring plcs to state in their annual reports the average length of time it takes them to pay their bills.

Among the slowest-paying companies, according to the research, were World Telecom (258 days), Slumberland (113), Bovis Homes (109), Staveley Industries (98), Northern Textiles (116) and several football clubs, including West Ham United (108) and Sheffield Wednesday (105).

Manchester United appears saintly in comparison, paying within 35 days on average. Other good performers were Johnson Matthey (four days), Fortnum & Mason (20) and Liverpool Airport (14).

The research shows that the average time that it takes a plc to pay up is 46 days. Only a third pay within 30 days.

A free copy of the tables is available from 0171-233 7900.

■ Hewlett Packard is launching a new Internet-based finance package to help small and medium-sized firms to address the problem of obsolescence in their computers. "E-Finance" will deliver direct financing to businesses for the development of any aspect of their technology needs. This includes financing requests for amounts from as little as £900 for products, as well as consultancy and after-sales support. HP offers a competitive fixed interest rate, and firms may exchange their products for upgraded technology after 18 months. Contact 01344 361631.

■ A free health check for firms confused by new employment regulations is available from Kingston Smith, the accountant. Recent research by the firm revealed that 46 per cent of businesses were uncertain as to whether they were complying with employment regulations. The consultation will also review procedures relating to Paye. Contact 0171-566 4000.

■ The minimum wage will be introduced on April 1 despite protests from lobby groups that small and medium-sized firms have not been given enough time to implement changes to their business strategies. As an attempt to reduce paperwork, firms will no longer be obliged to print a 250-word statement explaining the new rules. The DTI's minimum wage national helpline is on 0845 8450360.

MEGAPHONE

Michael Burn, design director of Light Years Ahead, a fluorescent light manufacturer in Ipswich, says that Britain's inventors always lose out. LYA has turnover of £500,000 and employs 10 people.

"The UK has an institutionalised culture against innovation. Why should inventors who create wealth through their expertise and work be liable for capital gains tax at full rate on any dividends they receive?

"Within the Enterprise Investment Scheme there is no tax relief for founder shareholders. Cash invested later by others, when the risk is less, benefits from tax relief at entry and exit. As more investment is needed, the founder's stake is diluted. An encouragement to enterprise and innovation? I think not. Money overrides skill and gets all the rewards."



Burn: money is rewarded

□ *Any company wishing to express a view in Megaphone should contact In Business.*

Could you become the Entrepreneur of the Year?

Big rewards and world recognition are awaiting the winners of our new award



Martyn Thomas says he is no stranger to the production line

YOU have one month left to enter the contest to find the Entrepreneur of the Year. If you want to be a part of the network of international entrepreneurs that includes Michael Dell, founder of Dell Computer and a winner of the contest in 1989, and Paul Fireman, who set up Reebok and was a winner in 1990, apply here.

British winners will be invited to a conference in Palm Springs, California, in November to network and compare notes with like-minded individuals — the winners from the 20 other participating nations.

The competition, launched last month, is run by the international accountants Ernst & Young and is co-sponsored by *The Times* and The Citibank Private Bank.

Martyn Thomas, a founder and director of Thomas Morel Foods, is typical of the high calibre of entrants already received, and displays the sort of drive and determination that the award aims to recognise.

Mr Thomas was 22 and fresh from college when he met his partner, Kevin Morel, while working as chefs for the Roux brothers. They decided to set up their own vacuum-packed food company, and, after unglamorous beginnings in a garden shed almost ten years ago, the company, now based in Redditch, employs more than 100 staff and has a turnover of £7 million — up 40 per cent on last year. It can count Whitbread, Bass, Scottish & Newcastle and Granada among its high-profile clients.

Mr Thomas recalls how, as a student working in kitchens to make ends meet, he always believed that he could do a better job than his boss. Thomas Morel Foods has since won awards for the technique that it uses to pre-cook meals in vacuum-sealed bags. It retains the taste and permits fast freezing so that they can be easily reheated and served.

"We spotted a gap in the market for high-quality but convenient food," Mr Thomas said. "Marrying our skills as traditionally trained chefs with food techonology, we were able to produce an innovative product, with the rigorous hygiene standards people wanted."

Mr Thomas displays limitless enthusiasm, with which he encourages his staff.



Enthusiasm and talent are regarded more highly than experience when recruiting staff, many of whom join direct from college.

The company has recently diversified into puddings, restaurant management and food consultancy. Its founders want turnover of £20 million within five years. It is the same drive to improve and expand that Mr Thomas wants to foster in his staff.

He prides himself on working alongside his team on the production line and displaying the sort of humility that would make the fiery Gordon Ramsay blush. He said: "Understanding the contributions that all members of staff can make and learning from them is one of the things that will make this firm achieve its ambitious growth targets."

■ *Application forms for Entrepreneur of the Year are available on 0845 6041012. Entrepreneurs can nominate themselves or be nominated. All applications must be in by April 30. There are a number of categories relating to business sectors, age and to aspects of an entrepreneur's performance.*

RICHARD COLWILL

LINKS

WEBSITE: www.eoy.co.uk

IN BUSINESS IS EDITED BY HENRIETTA LAKE
henrietta.lake@the-times.co.uk

Mr SMEE

SPRING!

WHEN A YOUNG BUSINESSMAN'S FANCY...

LIGHTLY TURNS



THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Human tide abandons Kosovo

■ President Clinton and Tony Blair both vowed to carry on bombing yesterday in the face of escalating violence by Serb forces in Kosovo and an uncontrollable flood of refugees into neighbouring countries.

The Prime Minister said now was the time to stand firm against the brutality and insisted that the Nato air campaign must intensify. President Milosevic should pay "a heavy price" for the atrocities, he said. Of greatest concern was the huge rise in refugees pouring across the borders........Reports, pages 1-7

Officials impotent as refugees flood in

■ Yard by yard, the procession of tractors groped their way along the mountain's edge to reach some of the thousands trying to escape Kosovo on foot through mud and snow. Villagers had to use their own vehicles to rescue the latest victims of Kosovo's war, some of whom had been walking for days... Page 3

Rebels appeal for more weapons

■ Running short of guns and ammunition, the Kosovo Liberation Army appealed from its mountain hideouts for Nato to provide heavy weaponry for the hit-and-run war against the Serbs. Around Pristina, brigades of the KLA were said to be engaged in hand-to-hand fighting with Serb paramilitaries........Page 5

A6 murder 'cover up'

Police withheld vital evidence in the trial of James Hanratty, who was hanged in 1962 for the "A6 murder", according to investigations by the new miscarriages of justice authority ....Page 8

Food cuts cholesterol

Benecol yesterday became the first food to go on sale in Britain with a claim that it has proven medical benefits. It can cut cholesterol by up to 10 per cent and so reduce the risk of heart attacks by a third, say its makers......Page 8

IRA to reveal graves

The IRA was poised to announce the locations of the unmarked graves of three people it killed during the 1970s. The disclosure coincided with the arrival in Belfast of Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern, the Irish Taoiseach, on a last-ditch mission to save the Good Friday peace accord.....................Page 10

Model murderer jailed

A former Israeli soldier who murdered a model because she wanted to end their affair has been jailed for life by an Old Bailey judge...............................Page 11

Lords debate reform

Hereditary peers were urged to resist their expulsion from the House of Lords until they had ensured that a better chamber would succeed them........Page 12

Theatres attacked

The playwright Sir Alan Ayckbourn has accused the Royal National and Royal Shakespeare theatres of "ghettoising" children with little more than "a nice Christmas show" and education programmes......................Page 13

Rural housing push

Tax incentives could be used to encourage an increase in affordable homes in rural communities, the new chairman of the Countryside Agency said. Ewen Cameron said this was one of the ideas being considered to help to revive dying rural villages.............Page 14

Atheist plot unravels

The mystery of America's leading atheist, missing for more than three years, may soon be resolved. Madalyn Murray O'Hair, who once described herself as the most hated woman in America, vanished in 1995...............Page 15

Forty pages net £250,000 book deal

■ A first novel has been signed up by a publisher on the strength of just 40 sheets of paper in a deal worth more than £250,000. Andy McKillop was so impressed by Anna Maxted's writing in *Getting Over It* that he beat off competition from other publishers at the International Bookfair. "Her voice is completely brilliant and compelling," he said.......................Page 13

TIM OCKENDEN



Lowland Gorillas Kwibi and Djalta have been hand-reared at Howletts Wild Animal Park in Kent after being rejected by their mother

Euro falls: The euro fell to a low against the dollar and the pound, weighed down by the Kosovo conflict and concern about prospects in continental Europe.............Page 25

BP bid: BP Amoco could be forced to take a goodwill accounting charge of up to $18 billion in its proposed $25 billion takeover of Atlantic Richfield.........................Page 25

Power threat: The threat of the first strike in the electricity industry since privatisation loomed after pay talks between National Power and unions representing 1,000 key workers broke down..........Page 25

Markets: The FTSE 100 index rose 113.7 to 6252.9. The pound fell .22 cents to $1.6188 and rose .02p to 66.19p against the euro. The sterling index fell to 103.8........Page 28

Football: Uefa, the European governing body, needs to act swiftly to maintain control of the Euro 2000 qualifying competition after further postponements ....Page 48

Rugby union: The new accord within Europe could mean a financial return to the six countries involved of £30 million, even before gate receipts are considered..........Page 45

Rowing: Oxford averaged 14st 10lb per man at the Boat Race weigh-in, with Cambridge half a pound a man lighter. The crews are the third heaviest ever ....Page 48

Racing: Jamie Osborne's retirement, in order to train on the Flat, was greeted with sadness and surprise by friends and foes, but his words left no room to doubt the wisdom of his decision............Page 48

Competitive spirit: Richard Cork gives a progress report on how the judging is going in the *Times*/Artangel Open art competition launched last September...Page 32

Pop gigs: The Shepherds Bush Empire gives Illinois band Wilco a platform for their sensitive musical vision; and Nick Cave offers music and a lecture in Dublin.....Page 32

Big Screen USA: Our weekly look at the American movie scene focuses on Elizabeth Hurley and Matthew McConaughey in *EDtv*, Hollywood's latest dissection of TV culture..Page 33

Dirty talking: At the Bush Theatre, Mike Packer's satisfying play *Card Boys* tells a lively if foul-mouthed tale of love, sex and relationships in town and country...............Page 34

Musical miracle: Serious brain damage after a car crash has left Rupert Johnston, a musician, with the mind of a child. But his gift for playing the French horn has survived and offers hope.........Page 16

Desperate measure: "I needed a radical solution — to the prognosis, to the threat of surgery. I told Nigella I was seriously thinking of not having the operation. Then I asked if she'd help me to commit suicide." — John Diamond...............Page 17

Ouch: Dr Thomas Stuttaford explains why gout is no laughing matter for its victims.................Page 17

Under scrutiny: It is two years since the Criminal Case Review Commission was set up...................Page 35

Model: Britain should look to the Canadian system when reforming the House of Lords ....Page 35

Passion: A new law criminalises relations between adults if professionalism is compromised........Page 35

New Yorkers at last glimpsed the possibility that some constructive change will come from the death of Amadou Diallo. The Mayor Rudolph Giuliani seems to be doing his best to demonstrate that he wants to develop better relationships with black leaders. It is imperative that he establish a new understanding between police and the minority community.

The New York Times

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **INTERFACE**
The Internet has made us all explorers

■ **HOMES**
How has the Newbury bypass changed life in the Berkshire town and surrounding villages?

RADIO & TV

Preview: *Supernatural* (BBC1, 8.30pm) takes a look at the heightened senses of some of the planet's animals. **Review:** Joe Joseph admits that he's not one for DIY, unlike some.....................Pages 46, 47

OPINION

Facts on the ground

The crushing of Kosovo is not a response to airstrikes: it is long-planned and would have gone ahead without a Nato decision to act. Mr Milosevic is out to use his firepower before he loses it. That is why Nato has to accelerate its offensive ....Page 19

Semtex not semantics

The real choice on offer is not one between an imperfect compromise that preserves the peace process at the price of sidelining decommissioning or a rapid return to violence ....Page 19

Stately homes

The burgeoning of the stately-homes business has let the aristocrats who once formed our governing elite keep their dignity as their political power has been whittled away...................................Page 19

COLUMNS

ANTOINE PALMER

Nobody will give the next Director General of the BBC enough space to make any difference at the BBC. Whoever it is, whatever he'd like to do...Page 18

LIBBY PURVES

Never is the stoical resolve, the dutiful understatement, of the Armed Service ethos more admirable than when contrasted with the wobbling lips of politicians — two of whom are desperately trying to justify a blunder, and the third wishing he had had the sense to speak against the said blunder.................Page 18

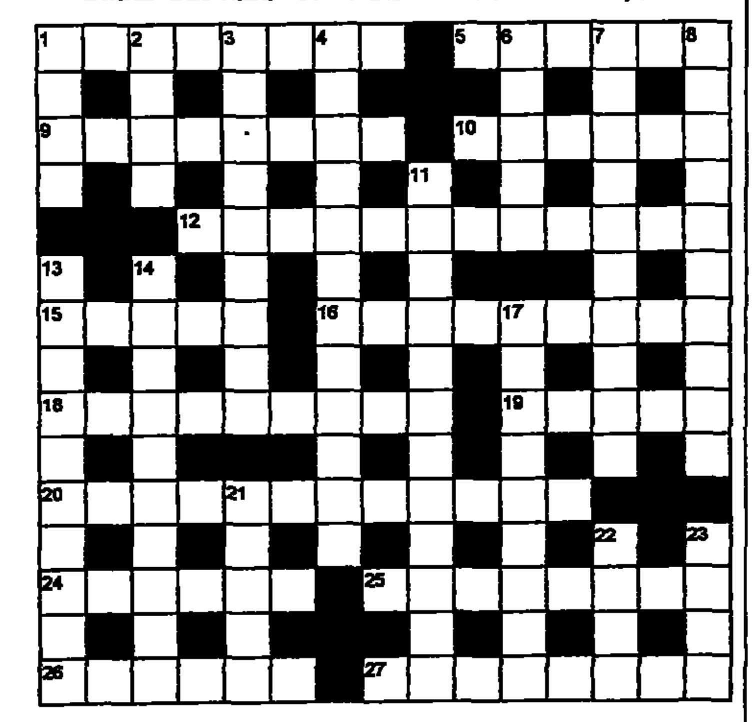
MICHAEL GOVE

The bloody tragedy in Kosovo should not be allowed to distract us from the black farce running in Stormont this week.............Page 18

George Ross Goobey, pension fund manager; **Group Captain C K Saxelby**, wartime bomber pilot; **Gideon Rafael**, Israeli diplomat....................................Page 21

Nato strikes; US meat safety; disabled benefits; ending poverty; science in Russia......................Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,064



ACROSS

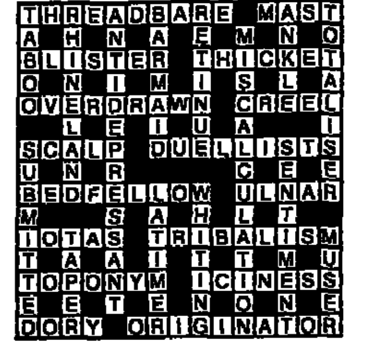
1 Fish from boat with painter (4,4).
5 A lot of detectives in charge can be caustic (6).
9 One by one, armies manoeuvred to capture it back (8).
10 Cleric standing right between parent and child (6).
12 Does he return in disguise, secretly? (5,3,4).
15 Don't start to use force on lock (5).
16 Chap going to European city for a plant (4,5).
18 Husband voices request that may go to wife's head (9).
19 Medium of communication used by minor gangsters (5).
20 Support in Long Island for New York docker (12).
24 From a copper people get insight (6).
25 Removal of excess water from a garden I transformed (8).
26 Potential young partners who attract old money (6).
27 Seafood – over 2000 lbs. taken on board (8).

DOWN

1 It's only right (4).
2 Injure horse with weapon (4).
3 Having spoken about one strain, turned up interpretation of symptoms (9).
4 Wanting more space in attic, one may become very angry (5,3,4).
6 Cut into quarry (5).
7 Put off the record how old we are (10).
8 Familiar artistic society housed in religious building (10).
11 Troublemaker among Mother Carey's brood (6,6).
13 A steel that is refined, as a minimum (2,3,5).
14 House plant appearing every six months (4-6).
17 Trial, for defence, has not succeeded (9).
21 Inflexible tail of foxhound, say (5).
22 Sweet and sour (4).
23 Iron used by sailors for brake (4).

Times Two Crossword, page XX

Solution to Puzzle No 21,063



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Full moon tomorrow

London 7.29 pm to 6.39 am
Bristol 7.39 pm to 6.49 am
Edinburgh 7.46 pm to 6.48 am
Manchester 7.40 pm to 6.46 am
Penzance 7.50 pm to 7.02 am

☐ **General:** southern and eastern England cloudy and dull with outbreaks of rain, some of them rather heavy, and quite mild. Some rain will also edge into South Wales and the Midlands, but North Wales and much of northern England will be brighter with isolated showers and a few sunny spells. Northern Ireland will have sunshine and showers. Western Scotland windy with some heavy showers. Eastern Scotland drier with some better periods of sunshine.

Tonight misty and murky in southern parts of England and Wales; rain will ease off for a while but return by morning. Showers elsewhere will mainly die out but a few will remain in western Scotland, where they will turn wintry over the hills.

☐ **London, SE, Cent S England, E Anglia, Channel Is:** rather dull and cloudy with outbreaks of rain, some of them heavy. Light SW wind. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **Midlands, E, SW England, S Wales:** mostly cloudy with rain at times, but drier and brighter in the west, spreading east this afternoon. Light SW wind. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** a few sunny spells, but cloud building to bring a scattering of showers with perhaps a longer spell of rain in the south this morning. Light SW wind. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Central N, NE England:** some cloud and rain pushing into southernmost parts, but most areas will stay dry with sunny periods. Light SW wind. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth:** breezy with the odd mountain shower, but predominantly dry with some decent spells of sunshine. Moderate to fresh SW wind. Max 13C (55F).

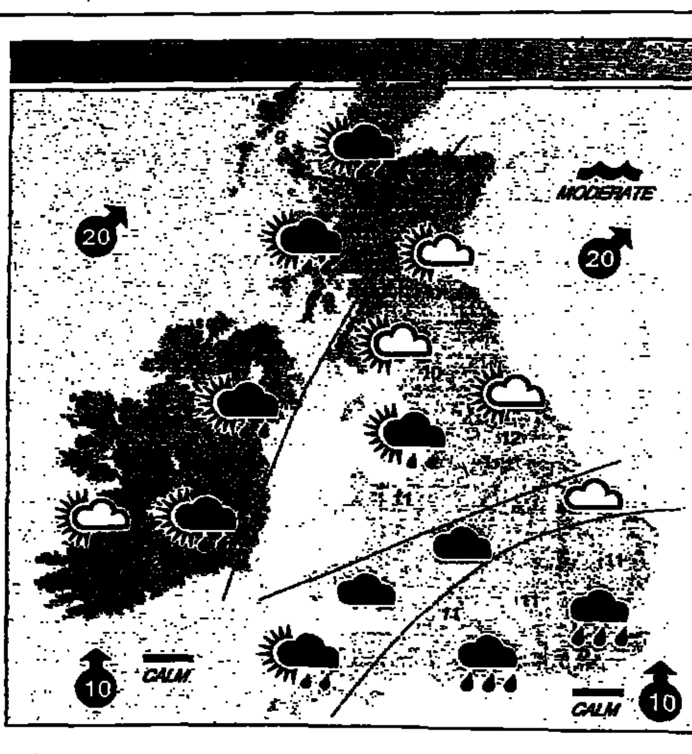
☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** cool and windy with scattered showers, some of them heavy, but in between the showers there will be some sunshine. Fresh to strong SW wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **N Ireland:** sunny spells, the best of them in the south and east, but showers elsewhere. Moderate SW wind. Max 13C (55F).

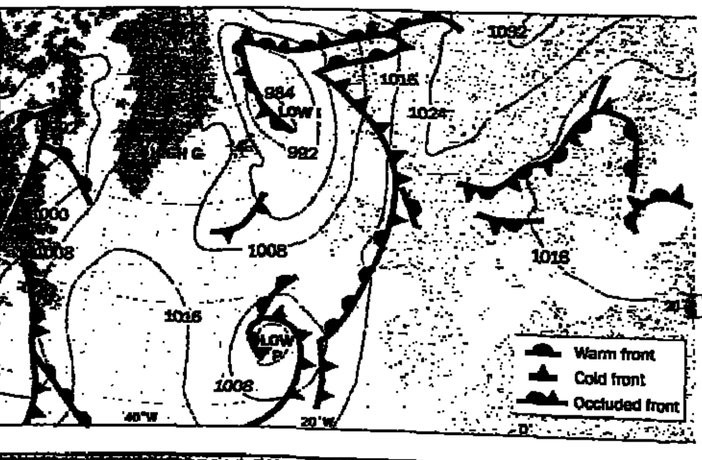
☐ **Republic of Ireland:** a lot of cloud, but some bright or sunny intervals, especially in north. Showers in north, patchy rain in south. Light southerly wind. Max 13C (55F).

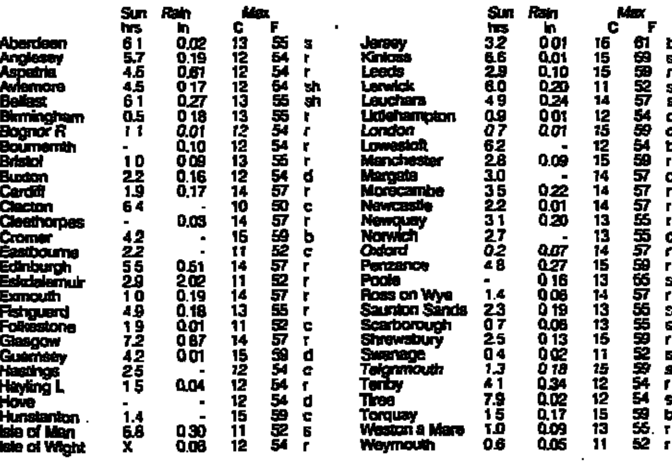
☐ **Outlook:** it will turn very mild in the south tomorrow and there will be a lot of cloud and patchy rain. Heavier rain will push north into Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The north and west will have showery rain on Thursday, but the east will be dry and warm with sunny spells.



Changes to the chart below from noon: low I should slowly fill as it moves northeast. Low P is expected to deepen as it drifts slowly north/northeast. High G will merge with the ridge to its south and intensify





24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	6.1	0.02	13	55	s	Jersey	3.2	0.01	16	61	b
Anglesey	5.7	0.19	12	54	r	Kinloss	6.6	0.01	15	59	s
Aspatria	4.5	0.61	12	54	r	Leeds	2.9	0.10	15	59	r
Aviemore	4.5	0.17	12	54	sh	Lerwick	6.0	0.20	11	52	s
Belfast	6.1	0.27	13	55	sh	Leuchars	4.9	0.24	14	57	sh
Birmingham	0.5	0.18	13	55	r	Littlehampton	0.9	0.01	12	54	d
Bognor R	1.1	0.01	12	54	r	London	0.7	0.01	15	59	c
Bournemth	-	0.10	12	54	r	Lowestoft	6.2	-	12	54	b
Bristol	1.0	0.09	13	55	r	Manchester	2.8	0.09	15	59	r
Buxton	2.2	0.16	12	54	d	Margate	3.0	-	14	57	c
Cardiff	1.9	0.17	14	57	r	Morecambe	3.5	0.22	14	57	r
Clacton	6.4	-	10	50	c	Newcastle	2.2	0.01	14	57	r
Cleethorpes	-	0.03	14	57	r	Newquay	3.1	0.20	13	55	r
Cromer	4.2	-	15	59	b	Norwich	2.7	-	13	55	c
Eastbourne	2.2	-	11	52	c	Oxford	0.2	0.07	14	57	r
Edinburgh	5.5	0.51	14	57	r	Penzance	4.8	0.27	15	59	r
Eskdalemuir	2.9	2.02	11	52	r	Poole	-	0.16	13	55	sh
Exmouth	1.0	0.19	14	57	r	Ross on Wye	1.4	0.08	14	57	r
Fishguard	4.9	0.18	13	55	r	Saunton Sands	2.3	0.19	13	55	s
Folkestone	1.9	0.01	11	52	c	Scarborough	0.7	0.08	13	55	sh
Glasgow	7.2	0.87	14	57	r	Shrewsbury	2.5	0.13	15	59	r
Guernsey	4.2	0.01	15	59	d	Swanage	0.4	0.02	11	52	sh
Hastings	2.5	-	12	54	c	Teignmouth	1.3	0.18	15	59	sh
Hayling I.	1.5	0.04	12	54	r	Tenby	4.1	0.34	12	54	r
Hove	-	-	12	54	d	Tiree	7.9	0.02	12	54	sh
Hunstanton	1.4	-	15	59	c	Torquay	1.5	0.17	15	59	b
Isle of Man	6.8	0.30	11	52	s	Weston s Mare	1.0	0.09	13	55	r
Isle of Wight	X	0.08	12	54	r	Weymouth	0.6	0.05	11	52	r

	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	13	55	f	Cologne	10	50	c	Madrid	13	55	s	Rome	10	50	f
Akrotiri	15	59	f	C'phagn	5	41	f	Majorca	16	61	f	Salzburg	9	48	c
Alex'dria	27	81	f	Corfu	16	61	f	Malaga	17	63	f	S Frisco	X		
Algiers	12	54	f	Dublin	11	52	c	Malta	11	52	s	Santiago	23	73	s
Amst'dm	10	50	s	Dubrovnik	14	57	s	Melbourne	13	55	sh	S Paulo	X		
Athens	17	63	s	Faro	18	64	f	Mexico C	21	70	s	Seoul	8	46	s
Bahrain	25	77	s	Florence	14	57	c	Miami	27	81	s	Singapore	28	82	f
Bangkok	35	95	s	Frankfurt	6	43	c	Milan	13	55	f	Stockholm	8	46	s
Barbados	27	81	c	Funchal	19	66	c	Montreal	11	52	s	Strasbrg	5	41	c
Barcelona	15	59	f	Geneva	6	43	c	Moscow	12	54	s	Sydney	19	66	s
Beijing	10	50	s	Gibraltar	17	63	s	Munich	7	45	c	Tangier	16	61	f
Beirut	16	61	f	Helsinki	7	45	c	Nairobi	X			Tel Aviv	23	73	c
Belgrade	11	52	f	Hong K	20	68	c	Naples	15	59	c	Tenerife	21	70	f
Berlin	6	43	c	Innsbruck	9	48	c	N Delhi	30	86	s	Tokyo	10	50	c
Bermuda	21	70	f	Istanbul	13	55	r	N York	6	43	c	Toronto	15	59	s
Biarritz	12	54	s	Jeddah	31	88	s	Nice	15	59	s	Tunis	17	63	f
Bordeaux	14	57	c	Jo'burg	23	73	f	Oslo	5	41	s	Valencia	13	55	s
Brussels	10	50	s	L Palmas	21	70	s	Paris	12	54	s	Vanc'ver	5	41	c
Budapest	14	57	s	Le Touquet	11	52	f	Perth	28	82	s	Venice	14	57	f
B Aires	17	63	f	Lisbon	15	59	c	Prague	13	55	c	Vienna	9	48	r
Cairo	33	91	c	Locarno	11	52	f	Reykjavik	3	37	f	Warsaw	17	63	s
Cape Tn	35	95	s	L Angeles	X			Rhodes	15	59	f	Wash'ton	9	48	c
Chicago	X			Luxembg	7	45	s	Rio de J	28	82	f	Wellington	21	70	X
Ch'church	28	82	X	Luxor	33	91	s	Riyadh	28	82	s	Zurich	6	43	c

Temperatures at midday local time Sunday. X = not available

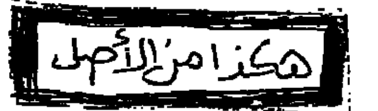
HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	0:28	4.0	12:36	4.1	Liverpool	10:26	9.1	22:47	9.1
Avonmouth	6:18	12.8	18:43	12.9	London Bridge	0:45	6.9	13:13	7.2
Belfast	10:06	3.4	22:45	3.2	Lowestoft	8:57	2.3	20:45	2.4
Cardiff	6:04	11.8	18:29	12.0	Margate	11:33	4.6	23:40	4.5
Devonport	5:00	5.2	17:25	5.2	Milford Haven	5:19	6.6	17:41	6.6
Dover	10:17	6.2	22:29	6.4	Newquay	4:12	6.6	16:33	6.6
Dublin	10:54	4.2	23:16	3.9	Oban	5:06	3.7	17:27	3.7
Falmouth	4:31	5.0	16:56	5.0	Penzance	3:44	5.3	16:05	5.2
Greenock	11:36	3.3	-		Portland	5:36	1.8	18:13	1.7
Harwich	11:03	3.8	23:19	3.7	Portsmouth	10:21	4.3	22:45	4.5
Holyhead	9:33	5.4	21:55	5.3	Shoreham	10:23	5.9	22:50	6.1
Hull (Albert D)	5:30	8.1	17:37	8.4	Southampton	10:09	4.3	22:32	4.5
Ilfracombe	6:06	8.8	17:28	8.9	Swansea	5:27	12.0	17:48	12.0
King's Lynn	5:27	6.2	17:32	6.3	Tees	2:49	9.6	15:01	9.8
Leith	1:42	5.2	14:02	5.3	Walton-On-Naze	10:59	4.1	23:13	4.0

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: highest day temp: Glenanne (near Newry, Northern Ireland) and Jersey (Channel Islands) 16C (61F); lowest day max: Capel Curig (Gwynedd) 9C (48F); highest rainfall: Eskdalemuir (Dumfries and Galloway) 2.02ins; highest sunshine: Tiree (Inner Hebrides) 7.9hrs



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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY MARCH 30 1999

Dollar and sterling climb amid signs of European weakness

Balkan crisis sends euro sliding

By Alasdair Murray
Economics Correspondent

THE EURO tumbled to record lows against the pound and the dollar yesterday, undermined by the intensifying conflict in the Balkans and fresh signs of European economic weakness.

The euro fell as low as $1.0683 — nearly 10 per cent below its post-launch high against the dollar — before steadying to stand around $1.0720.

The pound also benefited, climbing as high as 66.05p against the euro, some 9 per cent above the levels recorded when the euro first launched.

The pound, however, failed to hold the gains and closed only marginally up at 66.19p, while sterling continued to lose ground against the all-conquering dollar, falling to $1.6188 from $1.6211.

Other European currencies local to the Nato action fared even worse than the euro, with the Bank of Greece forced to intervene in the market to try and stem a run on the drachma.

Analysts predicted that a further escalation in the Kosovo crisis would quickly push the euro down towards $1.05 and even to $1.04 — a level that implies a near ten-year low against the dollar for European currencies which now constitute the euro.

However, even if there is a solution in Kosovo, traders predicted that the euro will remain under pressure because of the faltering euroland economy.

Speculation that the European Central Bank may cut rates at its next policy meeting on April 8 has been rising in recent weeks, with the ECB coming under pressure to halt Europe's economic slowdown.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development last week said in its first post-euro report on monetary union that there was scope for a rate cut, while the International Monetary Fund's executive board is reported to have privately demanded an ECB rate reduction last weekend.

The European Commission is expected to add further to pressure on the ECB today, when it officially reduces its eurozone growth forecasts from 2.6 per cent to 2.1 per cent.

The ECB appears to have softened its stance in recent days, with senior ECB members moving from their preferred original formula that European rates were already low enough to support growth. Otto Issing, ECB chief economist, became the latest to hint that rate cuts are now possible, commenting that while prices remain stable, there is evidence of a "a slightly declining trend" in growth.

Evidence that the slowdown is now beginning to affect the previously robust French economy emerged yesterday, when Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French Finance Minister, was forced to revise his forecast for growth from 2.7 per cent to between 2.2 and 2.5 per cent.

Hopes that the Bank of England may also cut British rates again next week remained intact after new data published yesterday showed a sharp fall in consumer borrowing.

Consumer credit growth fell from £1.3 billion in January to £935 million in February. The cause of the decline was lower growth in overdraft and personal loan borrowing as consumers tightened their belts after the January sales. However, credit card lending ticked up to £365 million, leaving analysts cautioning that there is no evidence of a slowdown in consumer appetite for credit.

Bank of England data also revealed that the property market showed fresh signs of life in February, with the number of new mortgage approvals rising from 80,000 to 87,000, the highest figure since last June.

Michael Coogan, direct general of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, said: "These figures suggest that the housing market has made a good start in 1999."

[redacted]

THE stock market surged back towards its record high yesterday, bolstered by hopes of a fresh round of merger activity and a flood of fresh money ahead of the end of the financial year (Alasdair Murray writes).

The FTSE 100 closed up 113.7 at 6252.9, its highest close for two weeks and only around 80 points shy of the all-time closing high established earlier this month.

The market was lifted by confirmation that BP Amoco is holding merger discussions with Atlantic Richfield, the US oil company. Speculation that Glaxo Wellcome is considering a link-up with Bristol Myers Squibb also fuelled hopes of a further round of multi-billion mergers.

Leading shares were also boosted by a flood of money entering the market at the end of the financial year, with the final round of Pep sales especially strong. However, the impact was limited to the FTSE 100.

London shares were also supported by a strong opening in Wall Street. By lunchtime in New York, the Dow Jones had climbed 155 points to hover just below the 10,000 mark.

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Anatole Kaletsky
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STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	6252.9	(+113.7)
Yield	2.47%	
FTSE All Share	2878.34	(+43.30)
Nikkei	16008.84	(-8.15)
New York:		
Dow Jones	9979.03	(+156.79)*
S&P Composite	1305.69	(+22.89)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	4¾%*	(4¾%)
Long bond	94[illegible]*	(95[illegible])
Yield	5.64%*	(5.60%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	5¼%	(5¼%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	116.76	(116.73)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6145*	(1.6237)
London:		
$	1.6186	(1.6200)
€	1.5104	(1.5092)
SFr	2.4070	(2.4053)
Yen	193.76	(194.55)
£ Index	103.8	(103.4)

DOLLAR

London:		
€	1.0716*	(1.0770)
SFr	1.4975*	(1.4790)
Yen	119.75*	(120.25)
$ index	n/a	(108.9)

Tokyo close Yen 120.25

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jun)	$14.45	($14.30)

GOLD

London close	$280.95	($279.55)

* denotes midday trading prices

Exchange rates .... Page 26

BP Amoco faces $18bn charge on Arco deal

By Carl Mortished, International Business Editor

BP AMOCO could be forced to take a goodwill accounting charge of up to $18 billion (£11 billion) in its proposed $25 billion takeover of Atlantic Richfield Company (Arco), enough to wipe out the savings gained from combining the two oil companies' vast operations in Alaska.

BP Amoco and Arco confirmed yesterday that discussions are under way "concerning a possible combination transaction". The two companies insisted that no definitive agreement had been reached but the market is expecting a $77 per share offer from BP, using the British company's highly rated shares as payment.

A takeover of Arco would enable BP to leapfrog over Shell into the number two position worldwide after Exxon-Mobil with a market capitalisation of about $195 billion and oil production of more than four million barrels per day.

US oil stocks rocketed yesterday, anticipating further tie-ups with Arco shares rising 10 per cent to $72. Texaco shares gained with the revival of talk that it would take over Burlington Resources, while Chevron is being linked with Phillips Petroleum and Conoco.



Browne: share strength

BP Amoco shares gained 40p to 1077p, closing at an all-time high. The Arco deal is being mooted just three months after BP completed its takeover of Amoco and suggests that BP's board, led by Sir John Browne, is keen to exploit the strength of its shares at a time when the stock of other oil companies has been weakened by the oil price.

Analysts speculated that a takeover of Arco could yield $1 billion in savings from merging the Prudhoe Bay operations in Alaska and removing head office costs. Arco is already targeting $500 million in savings by 2000 after announcing a programme of layoffs in October.

However, under accounting rules, BP will not be able to account for the integration of Arco as a merger as the US company represents only some 15 per cent of the value of BP Amoco. That raises the spectre of a write-off of some $18 billion in goodwill over the life of its reserves. Arco has about 13 years of production, suggesting a charge of more than $1 billion per year to BP.

A takeover of Arco would put BP into a dominant position in Alaska, potentially raising delicate political issues in the US state which is entirely dependent on oil production.

Paul Spedding, analyst at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, cast doubt on whether BP could replicate pro rata the $2 billion in cost-savings available from its Amoco merger. He said: "BP and Arco have already been running Alaska as a joint venture and there is not much overlap downstream."

Arco's refining and marketing business is focused on the West Coast of the US where it owns 1,700 petrol stations. BP Amoco's marketing business is mainly in the East and Midwest.

Icy winds, page 29

BP SETS A HOT PACE WITH PLANS FOR ALASKA

BP
Shell (rebased)
1100, 1000, 900, 800, 700, 600, 500, 400, 300, 200, 100
1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999
Source: DATASTREAM

BP Amoco, whose operations at Prudhoe Bay could be merged with Arco's, saw its shares close at a high. The merger would allow BP to leapfrog Shell

Liffe and LCH to run joint venture

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

LIFFE, the London futures and options exchange, is to join forces with the London Clearing House to develop new contracts and services.

A Liffe/LCH Development Board is being set up as a practical alternative to a merger, which both sides see as time-consuming and likely to expose more conflicts of interest than it resolves.

Brian Williamson, chairman of Liffe, said that the two organisations had long been considered to be "joined at the hip" and that critics claimed that Liffe was at a disadvantage in not owning its own clearing house.

Sir Michael Jenkins, chairman of LCH, said that electronic trading has made the appeal of new financial derivatives depend as much on the safe use of capital as on trading systems and availability. London needed one body where all these skills reside.

The development board includes Alastair Clark, an executive director of the Bank of England, and is open to new partners. "It shows that London can get its act together when it needs to" Mr Williamson said.

Both sides are developing instruments linked to the over-the-counter derivatives market which will not be included in the new alliance.

The LCH is eager to develop new services, including possibly acting as a counterparty guarantor for trading in international shares, but might be hampered by its essentially non-profit status. Developments in the joint venture are likely to be financed equally, but would operate on a commercial basis, in line with Liffe's profit-making ambitions.

LINKS

WEBSITE: http://www.liffe.com

Olivetti lifts telecom bid to £39bn

OLIVETTI yesterday raised its bid for Telecom Italia (Carl Mortished writes).

The conglomerate, led by Roberto Colaninno, is now offering €11.5 per ordinary share of Telecom Italia, Italy's state telephone company, up from its previous €10 offer. This lifts the bid's value to $64 billion (£39.5 billion), from $58 billion. Signor Colaninno said that the offer was definitive and final, involving €12 billion of capital-raising by Tecnost, Olivetti's subsidiary.

However, analysts were uncertain whether it was high enough, given the racy valuations of telecoms companies.

James Golob, of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said that €11.5 was about the minimum at which success could be achieved. "The bid is now more in the running, but you can justify something in the mid-teens per share," he said. "People, however, have not been that impressed with Telecom's Italia's actions to date."

Strike threat at National Power

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

THE THREAT of the first strike in the electricity industry since privatisation loomed yesterday after pay talks between National Power and unions representing 1,000 key workers broke down. Industrial action could trigger power cuts because the workers involved operate all the power stations of the country's biggest non-nuclear generator.

A source close to the talks said: "We are frustrated and concerned that the pay talks have not been successfully concluded. Industrial action cannot be ruled out."

The unions have asked for pay increases of more than 5 per cent for industrial and engineering staff. But National Power has offered only 2.2 per cent. Present pay arrangements end next month. The unions have called for rises exceeding inflation because they say they have introduced flexible working arrangements.

The unions, which include the normally moderate AEEU and the Engineers and Managers Association, Unison and the GMB, are also thought to have raised concerns about National Power's strategy.

Some believe that the company lacks direction in the UK and is weakening its position just as it loses market share because of government demands for it to sell power stations. One official said: "We have huge concerns about the future of National Power. It seems to be using the UK operations as a cash cow for overseas expansion and does not have a clear sense of where it is going here."

The City has also criticised National Power for a series of apparent policy U-turns. Last month it was disclosed that a £10.7 billion merger with the power and water business United Utilities had collapsed. But National Power had always maintained that it had not wanted to buy a full regional power operation, let alone a multi-utility.

M&S cuts jobs of 400 managers

THE culling of executives at Marks & Spencer under Peter Salsbury, the new chief executive, spread to middle management yesterday when the retailer said it will make about 400 redundant from its head office in London's Baker Street (Adam Jones writes).

M&S is trimming its buying and store development departments, with the loss of about 200. About £8 million has been earmarked for compensation.

An M&S spokeswoman estimated a further 200 jobs are likely to go when support functions at Baker Street are reviewed. She said it would give more responsibility to younger managers.

Last month, 33 senior executives — roughly a quarter of the top managers in the group — were made redundant.

About 3,800 workers are employed at head office. M&S employs 70,000 worldwide. It is estimated that M&S's falling sales have caused more than 2,600 job losses in the textile and clothing industries.

Grid made £892m by selling shares in Energis

National Grid made £892 million from its sale of 60 million shares in Energis, its telecoms subsidiary.

The electricity transmission business sold down its stake in Energis several weeks ago to fund its £2.7 billion purchase of New England Electricity System, the Massachusetts power company. The Grid released details of its gain on the shares, which were sold as the value of the telecoms sector soared, ahead of going into a closed period before its full-year results.

The company gave warning that it would take a £53 million charge on closing out interest rate swaps that were taken out in 1995 at a much higher level than the prevailing rate. It will also report that under-use of the power system, mainly because of the mild winter, has cost the company £24 million.

Bemrose disposal

Bemrose Corporation, the maker of calendars, Letts diaries and promotional goods, is selling a US supply operation for $130 million (£80 million), leading to a £43 million return of capital to shareholders. The group reported pre-tax profits of £11.6 million (£23 million) after a £9.5 million exceptional charge related to the sale of the US business. Sales rose from £203.3 million to £216.6 million. Earnings per share fell from 36.71p to 10.91p. A dividend of 11.35p will be paid, making a total of 17.5p (16.25p).

Stansted go-ahead

Stansted airport, the fastest growing segment of BAA, the airports operator, announced yesterday that it has received local authority planning permission to double capacity to 15 million passengers a year. The £200 million development will occur through expansion of the existing terminal and two new satellites on the airfield.

Greenalls search

Greenalls Group is expected to seek buyers for its distilling and drinks wholesaling businesses after the sale over the weekend of Stretton Leisure, its amusement machines arm.

GKN swap

GKN, the engineer, is strengthening its presence in the US by swapping car parts businesses with Dana, an Ohio-based group that is one of its joint venture partners.

Antisoma boost

Antisoma, the London cancer treatment company quoted on Easdaq, has been granted seven years of exclusivity for marketing its lead drug in the US.



SIMON BROOKE-WEBB

Keith Orrell-Jones, left, and James Loudon, finance director, reported a 7 per cent fall in pre-tax profit last year

Glaxo shares propelled by fresh merger hopes

By Paul Durman

SHARES in Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham raced ahead by 4 per cent yesterday on fresh hopes of pharmaceutical mega-mergers.

Glaxo Wellcome climbed by 83p to £19.79 and SB rose 32½p to 855½p, adding about £5 billion to the companies' combined value and contributing to a 113.7-point rise in the FTSE 100 index of leading shares.

The latest excitement stems from the disclosure that Glaxo and its chairman, Sir Richard Sykes, recently sought a deal with Bristol-Myers Squibb, the American drugs group that is struggling with a succession crisis. Bristol-Myers paid Charles Heimbold, its chairman and chief executive, $21.6 million in stock last year to persuade him to carry on working beyond the age of 65.

Glaxo's talks with Bristol-Myers having foundered, investors believe that the British company may seek to resurrect last year's failed merger with SB, whose chief executive, Jan Leschly, is due to retire in September next year.

SB resolutely insists it intends to retain its independence, and many analysts believe that the bad blood between it and Glaxo runs far beyond Mr Leschly.

Referring to SB's expected blockbuster treatment for diabetes, one analyst said: "There's more chance of Glaxo happening if Avandia fails."

He added: "Sykes now has two failed bid approaches to his name. I wonder if the market will be as harsh to him as to Jan Leschly."

Glaxo has overcome the loss of its patents on Zantac, its big-selling ulcer drug, and is set to grow at 8 to 10 per cent over the next five years — but some consider that too slow to keep pace with fast-expanding companies such as Pfizer.

Sir Richard sees much more scope for consolidation in the fragmented pharmaceutical industry. However, as companies become larger, it becomes much harder to sustain rapid growth, because even big-selling drugs have less impact. Novartis, the Swiss group formed from the merger of Ciba and Sandoz, has found it much easier to cut costs than to increase sales.

One industry executive said of Sir Richard: "Like many small men, he seems obsessed with size."

Bristol-Myers, the world's leading cancer company, is regarded as a good therapeutic fit with Glaxo. Sales of Pravachol, its cholesterol-lowering drug, have disappointingly lagged the market, and the company also faces a continuing patent battle to protect Taxol, its cancer blockbuster.

Both Glaxo and Bristol-Myers have been suggested as potential partners for Roche, but the ownership structure of the Swiss group makes this look less likely.

Blue Circle gives Asian warning

By Paul Armstrong

BLUE Circle Industries, the international cement producer, gave warning yesterday that it faced another poor year in its crucial Asian markets.

Keith Orrell-Jones, chief executive, said that despite early signs of a recovery, Asian demand in the first half was likely to be lower than at the same time last year.

Blue Circle also announced yesterday that its 1998 profit before tax and exceptionals had fallen 7 per cent last year to £318 million.

An exceptional charge of £43.8 million stemming from the planned closure of two UK cement plants left the pre-tax result at £274 million.

This compares with £246 million in 1997, when write-offs from asset sales resulted in a £95.7 million exceptional charge.

The result was at the lower end of expectations and, when combined with the outlook, prompted some analysts to reduce their 1999 pre-tax forecasts by about £10 million to between £300 million and £310 million.

A final dividend of 10.35p was declared, taking the full-year payout to 15.2p, up 4.8 per cent.

"The economic recovery in the Far East is slow in coming," Mr Orrell-Jones said.

Profits from Blue Circle's UK cement operations rose 11.3 per cent to £75.8 million on the back of higher prices and increased exports.

Mr Orrell-Jones said the UK operations had achieved annual cost reductions of about £18 million from a target of £50 million and further inroads would be made in May when the company closed its high-cost Plymstock and Masons Works operations.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Associates buying rival Platinum

COMPUTER ASSOCIATES, one of the largest makers of business software, is buying the rival Platinum Technology International for $3.5 billion (£2.17 billion). The cash offer represents a 196 per cent premium to Friday's closing price, but will give Computer Associates, based in New York, access to Platinum's consulting services and software for managing data and technology. Computer Associates will fund the acquisition through a $4.5 billion credit line with Credit Suisse First Boston Group.

Platinum Technology, which is based in Illinois, provides software products and consulting services that help companies to manage and improve systems and database management, e-commerce, data warehousing and year 2000 re-engineering. The company, established 12 years ago, has more than 120 offices across six continents. Computer Associates has more than 13,000 employees and had revenues of $5.1 billion last year. Platinum had 1998 revenues of $968 million. Sanjay Kumar, the president and chief operating officer of Computer Associates, said: "This transaction provides tremendous synergies in products, markets and services, with very little overlap, creating exciting growth opportunities for [Computer Associates] in many new and emerging markets."

LVMH wins delay

LVMH, the French luxury goods group, has won an extra week to launch a full takeover bid for Gucci, the Italian leather and fashion house. A Dutch court granted a seven-day delay, urging both sides to negotiate an amicable settlement. The delay means the talks may continue until April 6 before LVMH's full bid goes into operation. The French company has been locked in a battle for control of Gucci since early this year when LVMH built up a 35 per cent stake in the Italian group and then asked for a seat on the board.

British Regional up

SHARES in British Regional Air Lines, the short-haul carrier that flies in the British Airways livery, climbed after the group said profits rose 33 per cent and current trading was ahead of budget despite the competitive pressures being felt in the industry. The company, chaired by Sir Michael Bishop, its leading shareholder and the chairman of British Midland, said that 1998 pre-tax profits were £5.1 million and earnings were 8p (5.9p) per share. The maiden dividend is 0.88p. The shares, floated at 150p last summer, closed last night at 80p up 10p.

Cooper dividend back

FREDERICK COOPER, the kitchenware and hardware group, is restoring the interim dividend at 0.7p a share, after a two-year gap, in the light of the improved trading outlook. The company, which has emerged from a lengthy period of restructuring, reported 1998 pre-tax profits of £900,000 before exceptional items (£700,000). Adjusted earnings rose to 4.5p a share from 2.1p. The company has reached agreement with Barclays Bank to provide a new £12 million facility, comprising an overdraft and medium-term loan.

Hammerson on spree

HAMMERSON, the international property group, said yesterday it is paying £83 million for four office blocks at Euston Square, at the London railway terminal. It is buying the properties, which have a yield of 7.8 per cent on annual net rental of £6.5 million. The acquisition, from Kajima, the troubled big Japanese construction company, is part of a £200 million buying spree that Ronald Spinney, the Hammerson chief executive, signalled the company would be going on at the annual results.

Imperial bond offer

IMPERIAL TOBACCO, the UK cigarette manufacturer, has increased the size of its US bond offering to $600 million (£370 million) from $350 million, taking advantage of strong investor interest from Europe and America. The notes, due to mature in 2009 and with a coupon of 7.125 per cent, have been rated BBB by Standard & Poor's, and Baa2 by Moody's Investors Service. The issue was lead managed by Merrill Lynch with JP Morgan, Credit Suisse First Boston and Lehman Brothers as co-managers.

Pep sales grow as deadline nears

By Melanie Bien

THEY will not be with us for much longer, and if recent interest is anything to go by, their passing will be mourned. It is proving to be a bumper season for Pep sales, as investors rush to beat the April 5 deadline.

Although figures for March are not yet available, February's statistics suggest no let-up in momentum. Gross Pep sales rose 63 per cent to £1.1 billion, while net Pep retail sales (£628 million) rose 106 per cent on the month before and 52 per cent on the same month last year.

The findings, released yesterday by the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (Autif), also reveal that the Pep market has come to be characterised by an ever-declining number of providers.

Anne McMeehan, spokeswoman for Autif, said: "What will be interesting to look for in the months ahead will be whether this trend continues with the advent of Isas, or whether their arrival gives a new lease of life to a broader section of the industry."

LINKS

Weekend Money website: http://www.times-money.co.uk

EU delays new law on aircraft noise

HOPES of an end to a transatlantic row over noisy aircraft were raised when European Union transport ministers agreed to delay implementing a law that had infuriated the US and raised fears of Concorde being banned from New York (Adam Jones writes).

The European Commission is poised to ban older aircraft fitted with noise mufflers or "hush kits" after April 2002. However, it yesterday delayed implementing the legislation by a month to April 29, enabling further peace talks with US bodies. The dispute comes as the two sides remain locked in the so-called "banana war".

Maiden suffers 55% profits fall

By Chris Ayres

MAIDEN, the outdoor advertising group whose shares halved in value last September following a profits warning, yesterday described 1998 as "a testing year" while reporting a 55 per cent crash in pre-tax profits to £4.5 million.

Ron Zeghibe, Maiden's chief executive and a large shareholder in the company, said he was confident that Maiden could stage a successful comeback. He predicted that outdoor advertising would represent 8 per cent of total display advertising spending by 2003, compared with 6 per cent today.

Shares in Maiden, which have recovered significantly from their low of 212½p in September, remained unchanged yesterday at 412½p.

The company reported only a 3.3 per cent rise in sales to £65.3 million. Earnings per share fell from 17.7p to 11.3p. Maiden will maintain last year's total dividend of 6p, to be paid on May 28.

Mr Zeghibe said Maiden would benefit from consolidation in the outdoor advertising market, but added that the company's management — who control more than 70 per cent of its shares — were not yet ready to accept a takeover offer.

Trichet urges French banks to hold talks

By Caroline Merrell, Banking Correspondent

THE Governor of France's central bank, Jean-Claude Trichet, has urged Société Générale, Paribas and BNP, to try to resolve their differences.

His call came after the CECEI, the French regulator, gave the green light to BNP's hostile bid for Société Générale and Paribas.

Société Générale and Paribas had been in friendly discussions about a merger, but BNP then unexpectedly announced a hostile bid for the two.

M Trichet wants BNP, Société Générale and Paribas "to pursue their reflection and begin talks with each other".

According to the bank, talks should aim at "reaching a solution which fully respects the moral and financial interests of each institution and preserves the higher interest of the banking system".

The statement came shortly after the CECEI, which regulates the French banking sector, over which Trichet presides, ruled that BNP's bid for Société Générale and Paribas was allowable.

The CMF, the financial market regulatory body, had already authorised the bid as legal on March 16, but Société Générale and Paribas, which are trying to fight off what they see as a hostile takeover, appealed against that decision on Friday.

The stock market regulator, the COB, also has to rule on whether the bid is allowable. BNP and Société Générale said in a joint statement yesterday that they were still adamantly opposed to a three-way merger.

BNP has pledged no job cuts in France, under the terms of the deal. A two-way merger between Société Générale and Paribas would entail job cuts of about 900 from the 4,000 employed in London.

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EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.65	2.47
Austria Sch	21.78	20.12
Belgium Fr	64.11	59.15
Canada $	2.567	2.379
Cyprus Cyp £	0.9170	0.8455
Denmark Kr	11.82	10.98
Egypt	5.72	5.11
Finland Mkk	9.53	8.78
France Fr	10.38	9.60
Germany Dm	3.117	2.875
Greece Dr	518	479
Hong Kong $	13.36	12.16
Iceland	130	110
Indonesia	17978	12978
Ireland Pt	1.2438	1.1548
Israel Shk	6.88	6.22
Italy Lira	3100	2863
Japan Yen	208.96	191.45
Malta	0.679	0.620
Netherlds Gld	3.519	3.224
New Zealand $	3.16	2.93
Norway Kr	13.23	12.29
Portugal Esc	315.29	293.26
S Africa Rd	10.71	9.76
Spain Pta	262.77	243.98
Sweden Kr	14.30	13.20
Switzerland Fr	2.561	2.343
Turkey Lira	615653	574732
USA $	1.724	1.581

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

M&S aims to get size right

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

The changes being felt at Baker Street go far deeper than the latest round of job cuts may signify. Having pruned his team of executive directors, Peter Salsbury has told those who remain that they are to review the business as if they had just bought it.

This will require some imagination, since between them they have no experience of running businesses outside Marks & Spencer, and virtually none of buying them. But the indications are that they are succeeding in taking a fresh look at M&S and finding drastic flaws. That's the good news. The bad news is that, having been brave enough to admit that problems go far beyond a bad season's ranges, they must also know that the solution will not appear as quickly as a colourful rack of spring merchandise — although even that can take a dreadfully long time at M&S.

As the new chief executive, Peter Salsbury is keen to be seen as the spirit of change. For someone who had been in a pivotal role in the group for so long, he seems to have awoken to its failings rather late: the non-executives' decision to oust Sir Richard Greenbury from the chief executive's chair occasioned a sudden revelation that all was not well.

The problems go far beyond an outdated, autocratic management style. In a new spirit of openness, M&S will admit that it was slipping up on retail basics. Sizings, for instance, had stopped being properly standardised, so that a size 12 in one line was not necessarily the same as a size 12 in another. A minor discrepancy like that can create some majorly upset customers.

Such horrors persisted because buying and selling existed as almost unrelated functions within M&S. Mr Salsbury has moved fast to change that. His new, slimmer, board brings those functions together and apportions responsibility for buying and selling things profitably. Novel, huh?

The new power base will not be an overstaffed Baker Street, but the stores themselves. As jobs go from HQ — and many more will — there will be more investment in the shops. Money will also go into improving the supply chain, which should enable the company to get the right things into the shops when they are wanted. It all sounds fine, if somewhat belated. But it will take time to hit the bottom line. In the meantime, there will be a search for costs that can be cut. The company has already started blowing cold on the European expansion programme that was part of Sir Rick's swansong. Now it seems that the rethinking could be more drastic and that M&S could start to look at store sales in Germany.

But there is good news. Brooks Brothers, the US retailer for which M&S paid far too much, is coming good. In May it will open a fancy new store in New York's Fifth Avenue. It has taken a long time to get right but it is there now. M&S will take time but it will come right too.

Virtual merger gives City new life

Behold the virtual merger. Liffe has long been urged to merge with the London Clearing House, which helped to beget the derivatives exchange but now depends on it. Both chairmen know from numbing experience, however, that institutional reform runs counter to two key features of City culture: the cult of independent flexible specialists running their own show and the inability of committees to see the wood for the trees.

Unfortunately, global competition increasingly seems to favour the monolithic, whether in carmaking, banking or financial markets themselves. Electronic trading and converging technologies mean that customers want to be able to use the same systems wherever they are, have settlement of bargains integrated with trades and minimise the capital that they have to tie up to cope with risks or regulations.

The London Stock Exchange lost control of settlement systems and never got round to having a single counterparty as the safety buffer between buyer and seller. Those failings make it harder to fend off challenges from well-organised Germans, although London is tenacious and has not yet given up its ground.

Liffe is trying to fight back from equivalent threats, posed by the German Swiss Eurex exchange and even the French Matif, which have evaded US protectionism by their links with the top US futures exchanges. Off-exchange Internet trading threatens all of them.

No matter that Eurex and the Chicago Board of Trade fell out. The Germans combine banks, stock and futures exchanges, settlement and clearing, helping them in the race to offer one-stop trading to anyone, anywhere.

The joint development venture between Liffe and the LCH is meant to bring the forward-looking benefits of merging without the time-consuming and energy-sapping pain. It is meant to be a merger without a merger.

The new board should still be informal and flexible enough to make alliances and chase new business in several directions, including possibly even the CBOT or the Stock Exchange, whose relationship with Liffe has always been mutually damaging. Liffe and LCH are both targeting over-the-counter markets. The presence on the board of an executive director of the Bank of England as well as big figures from London and Chicago, suggest that this is as much an invitation to a party as the party itself. London certainly needs to show it can get its act together.

Easing paranoia over FSA powers

Paranoia over the perceived powers of the new Financial Services Authority is reaching screaming pitch. Yet the regular allegations that Howard Davies and his team will act as prosecutor, judge and jury may have missed a change in the Bill.

The FSA, although doubtless without any intention of becoming all-powerful, had proposed a system that could have been seen as making it so. But the Treasury liked the idea as little as some lawyers had. The result is that the independent tribunal that was only to have dealt with appeals from the court of the FSA is now constituted as a tribunal of first instance.

Any offenders will be able to take their case straight to this quasi-judicial body, which should go some way to silence those who accuse Mr Davies of prosposing to deprive insurance salesmen and merchant bankers of rights that are theirs courtesy of Magna Carta. The FSA is still hoping that it will be able to dispense its own brand of justice and that the majority of those it fingers will not head for the tribunal.

Plans to bring in mediators at an early stage in disputes with practitioners might enable speedy solutions without justice that is too rough. The parliamentary committee now scrutinising the Bill will propose more changes, particularly on definitions of market abuse. Critics should concentrate on their version, not the first draft. Mr Davies has no wish to find himself in court for breach of human rights.

French follies

IMAGINE the Bank of England's own Eddie George publicly requesting Lloyds TSB, Barclays and NatWest to get together in the national interest, even after two of them had said they would sooner give free credit. But this is France, where national pride requires a bank bigger than the Germans; where Jean-Claude Trichet, the country's designated future president of the European Central Bank, knows where his loyalties lie; and where *la gloire* counts for a lot more than *les consommateurs.*

T&S may bid for local shops

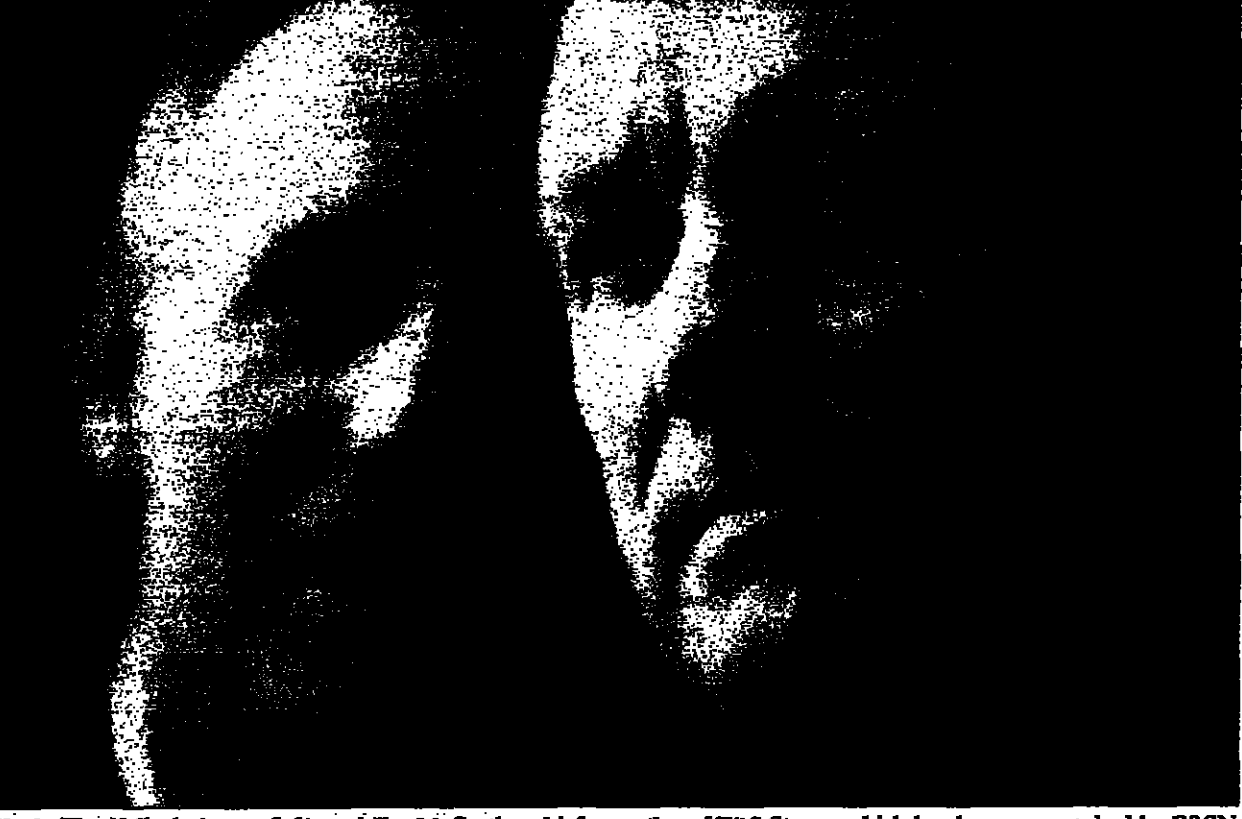
T&S STORES, the UK's largest chain of convenience stores, has revealed that it has been approached by Portsmouth & Sunderland Newspapers with a view to making a bid for P&SN's 220 local shops (Matthew Barbour writes).

P&SN's stores, rated at about £60 million, were put on the market after the company received takeover offers from other regional newspaper groups, including interest from Johnston Press, Newsquest and Newscom, which are not interested in the non-print assets.

Kevin Threlfall, T&S chairman, declined to comment on the P&SN approach but said yesterday that T&S plans further expansion in the sector.

T&S reported pre-tax profits in 1998 of £22.0 million (£20.0 million) on sales up 18 per cent at £648 million (£549 million). Earnings per share rose 13 per cent to 22.3p (19.7p).

ADRIAN SHERRATT



Kevin Threlfall, chairman (left), and Jim McCarthy, chief executive of T&S Stores, which has been approached by P&SN

Market research forecast

By Chris Ayres

TAYLOR NELSON SOFRES (TNS), the world's fourth-largest market research group, yesterday reported better than expected results and gave warning that the market research industry still faced "massive consolidation".

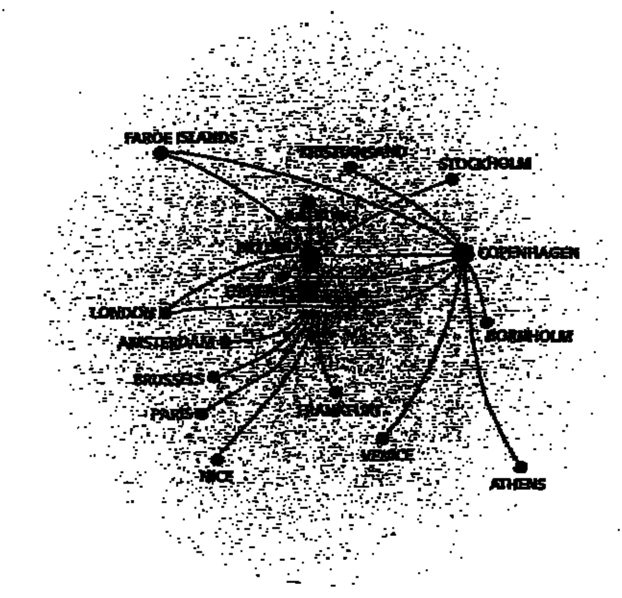
The company, formed in 1997 through the ambitious merger of Taylor Nelson, of Britain, and Sofres, of France, reported pre-tax profits of £28.2 million for the year to December 31. Pre-tax profits for the previous year, before the merger, were £11.8 million.

Group sales were £340 million, up from £109 million. Earnings per share were 5.23p (3.06p). A 0.9p final dividend makes a total of 1.4p (1p).

Tony Cowling, TNS chairman, said that further big mergers in market research were probable, though his group is likelier to make smaller acquisitions, funded by its £30 million cash pile and its £25 million borrowing facility.

TNS, which produces research for the television, consumer goods and healthcare industries, said that it would step up investment in the Internet in the coming year. It claimed that it had cut costs by up to 60 per cent in some cases by using the Internet to collect and distribute data.

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ICI shares leap on £2bn sale talks

By Christine Buckley

ICI shares leapt yesterday on confirmation that the group is in active talks to sell its £2 billion industrial assets with the US's Huntsman Corporation.

ICI's massive disposal programme — which aims to transform the company from a commodities business to a niche and consumer chemicals operation — has disappointed the City after hitting a series of problems. DuPont's bid to buy a large part of the industrial business, which includes its Tioxide plants and petrochemicals businesses, was blocked by the US's Federal Trade Commission. ICI has also suffered from poor interest in its operations because of the depressed state of the market.

ICI shares rose 34p to 561p on hopes that the talks would speed up the disposal programme. But some analysts said ICI could receive a low price because of Huntsman's reputation of striking a hard bargain.

A deal on its industrial assets would enable ICI to reduce its £4.2 billion mountain of debt.

Enterprise Inns seizes control of Century

By Dominic Walsh

ENTERPRISE Inns, the tenanted pub group, dramatically seized control of Century Inns yesterday after a hostile £78 million offer was snapped up by institutional shareholders.

The Century board, led by chief executive Alistair Arkley, was left powerless as undertakings representing 51 per cent of the shares were quickly turned into firm acceptances. HSBC, Enterprise's adviser, declared the all-share offer unconditional in mid-afternoon.

The decision by the likes of M&G, Morgan Grenfell and Norwich Union to back the bid without recourse to management is the latest manifestation of shareholder activism. One source close to Century said: "It's been a very well-orchestrated exercise, and I think you'll see more of this."

But the source suggested that the institutions had been "over-hasty", pointing out that the £1,000-a-barrel price was somewhat below some recent deals. "I think shareholders haven't done Alistair Arkley — or themselves — any favours. He should have been given a chance to seek a higher price."

Another adviser admitted that Mr Arkley was "feeling a little bruised", but added: "This is no reflection on him. Investors are increasingly thinking big and the message from this is that they want to invest in the sector but not in small cap stocks."

Although Century has long been touted as a takeover target, yesterday's events were even more surprising given that Enterprise has in recent weeks been unsuccessfully courting Inn Business. Shares of Inn Business dropped 5p to 66½p while Century frothed 26½p higher to 141½p.

Enterprise, which has grown from 486 pubs at flotation in 1995 to 1,780, is acquring 408 tenancies and 96 managed houses, of which 40 trade as Tap & Spile. It expects to convert most of the managed units to tenancies and sell the rest. It is offering 0.3942 new shares for every Century share, which at last night's close of 373½p — down 7p — values Century at £77.62 million, or 147p a share.

Enterprise said the deal would be immediately earnings-enhancing. Century's head office will be closed with the loss of up to 40 jobs and analysts are looking for cost savings and synergy benefits of at least £2.5 million.

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French Connection soars

By Paul Armstrong

SHARES in French Connection yesterday leapt as the fashion retailer reported a 27 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £10.4 million for its year to January 31. The shares were marked up 105p to 485p.

Stephen Marks, chief executive, said that the strong earnings growth was the result of the company's controversial advertising and its popular product lines. He said he was confident that French Connection, which also has the upmarket Nicole Farhi label, would maintain its growth rate "for the next few years".

The group plans to increase its retail outlets by 21 this year to 109. This compares with 62 at the start of last year.

A 3.25p final dividend makes 4.25p, up 30.8 per cent.

French Connection has recently signed a licence agreement with In-Specs, the eyewear company, to market sunglasses under its own labels. It hopes to secure licences this year for watches and hosiery.







Safeway checks out rise in spite of OFT referral

NOT everyone is taking a bearish view of the supermarket chains after their proposed referral by the Office of Fair Trading to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Talk of foreign buyers muscling their way into Britain's food retailing market has been rife and **Safeway** was chased up 15¾p, or 6.6 per cent, to 253¾p in heavy turnover of 18.8 million shares. Much of yesterday's demand for Safeway was being generated on the traded options market where investors paid heavily for the call in the belief that the shares are set to track sharply higher in the weeks ahead.

Buyers came in for the April 240p and April 260p series. They were paying 18p for the "out of the money" 240p series where 330 contracts, equivalent to 330,000 shares, were completed. They also gave 10p for the 260p series where 299 contracts were completed.

Credit Lyonnais Securities, the broker, has come out as a buyer of Safeway, despite admitting the stock is fully valued. In a review entitled "Flying in a low inflation environment" it also rates **Tesco**, 1½p firmer at 170½p, **J Sainsbury**, 3½p dearer at 381p, **Somerfield**, 2½p cheaper at 332½p, and **Iceland**, 8p down at 267½p.

The broker maintains that the MMC referral has already been discounted. The sector carries no bid premiums and it is unlikely that any foreign bids will be blocked.

The rest of the equity market got the week off to a flying start in spite of the worsening situation in the Balkans with investors making the most of strong opening gains in New York. Blue chips led the way higher with investors fed a steady diet of merger news and speculation.

The FTSE 100 index closed near its best of the day with a rise of 113.7 at 6,252.9, while the FTSE 250 index was limited to a rise of 15.5 at 5,469.4. Total turnover was a meagre 977 million shares.

Glaxo Wellcome raced up 83p to £19.79 on news that it has been in merger talks with rival Bristol Myers. That news dragged up **SmithKline Beecham**, 32½p higher at 855½p, the company Glaxo failed to agree merger talks with last year.

BP Amoco also sported a rise of 40p at £10.77 after admitting it was in merger talks with Atlantic Richfield. ICI led the leaders with a rise of 34p to 561p. It is in talks with a number of potential buyers for its businesses, totalling £2 billion. One of them is known to be the Huntsman Corporation.

Reports at the weekend also suggested **Reed International**, up 21p at 540½p, had rejected a £15 billion bid approach from Wolters Kluwer, the Dutch publisher. The two sides were involved in merger talks last year which were later aborted.

A single institutional buyer is thought to be behind the rise in **Storehouse**, whose chief executive is Keith Edelman. The shares rose 11p to 136½p, on turnover of 2.6 million shares. Several large lines of stock went through the market, including one of 500,000 at 127p.



Keith Edelman saw Storehouse shares increase 11p as several large lines of stock went through the market

MAKE IT A LARGE ONE

FTSE All-share index (rebased)

FTSE 350 Breweries, pubs & rests.

4,200 4,00 3,800 3,600 3,400 3,200 13,00 2,800

Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar

Source: Datastream

IT HAS BEEN a tough time for the brewers and pub chains after a sharp downturn in consumer expenditure.

But Teather & Greenwood, the broker, in its latest survey of the sector, believes that things are starting to pick up.

It urges clients to begin investing in the sector during the run-up to the millennium, no doubt on the basis that consumers will have already begun drinking themselves into a stupor before the celebrations get under way.

Scottish & Newcastle, up 12p at 688p, and Bass, down 10½p at 870p, are seen as a "buy", while Whitbread, steady at 940p, is regarded as expensive.

Meanwhile, spirit sales have made some progress in mature markets, but continue to struggle in the developing areas. Better things are expected for 1999.

Allied Domecq, 5½p easier at 459½p, is a "buy", but T&G has little time for Diageo, down 10p at 684p, and Highland Distillers, unmoved at 231½p.

Great Universal Stores fell 28p to 690p as Cazenove, the broker, cut its profit forecast by £16 million to £502 million.

There was further heavy turnover in **Signet**, up 1½p at 47¾p, amid reports that the company is coming under increasing pressure from shareholders to spin off its US operating that include Zales and Sterling.

Selfridges was a strong market ahead of final results later today with the price advancing 13p to 242p. BT Alex Brown, the broker, is forecasting a rise in pre-tax profits from £15.3 million to £18 million.

Daily Mail & General Trust, publisher of the *Daily Mail*, saw the "A" shares close 33p down at £31.05 with the ordinary unmoved at £32.25. Viscount Rothermere, chairman, has sold 122,000 "A" shares at £30 each, reducing his total holding to 12.23 million, or 12.9 per cent.

There was a further flurry of speculative buying recorded in **Pilkington**, 3p better at 75p. Schroder Investment Management has raised its holding in the company to 118.28 million shares, or 10.8 per cent.

AIM-listed **Beechcroft** was steady at 24½p after a 67 per cent rise in profits last year. The group, which builds retirement homes, is bullish about prospects.

Photo-Me International celebrated its admission to the FTSE 250 index with a jump of 30p to 535p. Index-tracker funds were busily increasing their weightings in the shares to reflect its new status.

Hanover International stood out with a jump of 10½p to 110½p. Greig Middleton, the broker, says the shares are a "buy" at this level.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Shorter-dated issues continued to benefit from hopes that the Monetary Policy Committee will next week sanction another cut in rates.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt rose 3p to £116.76 in thin trading that saw 19,000 contracts completed. Among conventional issues, Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was up 5p at £106.72, but at the longer end Treasury 8 per cent 2021 fell 36p to £145.80.

□ **NEW YORK:** Shares were sharply higher in late morning trade, lifted by fund managers' last-minute portfolio additions ahead of the end of the first quarter. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 156.79 higher at 9,979.03.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones .... 9979.03 (+156.79)
S&P Composite .... 1305.69 (+22.89)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average .... 16008.84 (-8.15)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 10888.47 (-114.84)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index .... 524.56 (+9.00)

Sydney:
AO .... 2974.0 (-22.6)

Frankfurt:
DAX .... 4876.92 (+101.75)

Singapore:
Straits .... Closed

Brussels:
BEL20 .... 3254.37 (+26.42)

Paris:
CAC-40 .... 4153.65 (+37.94)

Zurich:
SMI Index .... 7086.3 (+78.1)

London:
FT 30 .... 3804.0 (+56.7)
FTSE 100 .... 6252.9 (+113.7)
FTSE 250 .... 5469.4 (+15.5)
FTSE 350 .... 2973.7 (+47.0)
FTSE Eurotop 100 .... 2912.21 (+55.00)
FTSE All-Share .... 2878.34 (+43.30)
FTSE Non Financials .... 2924.22 (+48.29)
FTSE Fixed Interest .... 153.42 (-0.22)
FTSE Govt Secs .... 113.41 (Same)
Bargains 90957
SEAQ Volume 982.2m
US$ .... 1.6188 (-0.0023)
Euro .... 0.6619 (-0.0002)
£:SDR 1.1921
Exchange Index .... 103.8 (-0.1)
Bank on England official close (4pm)
RPI .... 163.7 Feb (2.1%) Jan 1987 = 100
RPIX .... 162.3 Feb (2.4%) Jan 1987 = 100

RECENT ISSUES

Axon Group	266½	-	1
BGI Endowment III	99½		...
Cairngorm Euro Restruct	106½	-	3½
Cairngorm Restruct Wrts	25½	-	1½
Canary Wharf (WI)	333½	-	2½
Enhanced Zero Trust	100½		...
Gander Properties	7½		...
Gartmore High Income	106		...
Gartmore Zero Div Pf	106¾		...
Govett Enhanced Dv Pf	101½	+	½
Govett Enhanced Inc	94		...
Jupiter En Zero Dv Pf	107	+	¼
Jupiter Enhanced Inc	101¼	+	¼
Luminar Warrants	250		...
M Currie Cap Return	74¾		...
M Currie Portfolio	79¼		...
Morse Holdings	245	-	5
Murray Smlr Mkts B Uts	185		...
Murray Smlr Mkts Prf	102½	+	¼
Murray Smlr Mkts Units	184½	+	1
NBA Quantum	110		...
Sports Internet	137½	-	3

RIGHTS ISSUES

First Tech Cnv Prf n/p (320)	26	+	1
Holmes Place n/p (275)	21½	-	3½
Waste Recycling n/p (406)	61		...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Telecom	170	+ 35	+ 25.9
BGR	180	+ 26½	+ 17.2
Staffware	252½	+ 32½	+ 14.7
Bemrose	329	+ 31½	+ 10.5
Euro Sales Fn	465	+ 37½	+ 8.7
Storehouse	136½	+ 11	+ 8.7
Comino	276	+ 20	+ 7.8
Lon Intl	155¼	+ 11	+ 7.6
Caird Gp	299	+ 19	+ 6.7
Safeway	253¾	+ 15¾	+ 6.6
CA Coutts Hldgs	162	+ 10	+ 6.5
Photo-Me	535	+ 30	+ 5.9
Selfridges	242	+ 13	+ 5.6
Smiths Ind	923	+ 46½	+ 5.3
Elsevier	877¼	+ 42½	+ 5.0
Metal Bulletn	1550	+ 75	+ 5.0
BG	378	+ 18	+ 5.0
Easynet	383	+ 18	+ 4.9

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Vanguard	215	- 17½	- 7.5
Kier	225½	- 11½	- 4.8
Cale Inns	205	- 10	- 4.6
Wolseley	455	- 20	- 4.2

TEMPUS

Future on the line

RAILTRACK is under the cosh. None of the news that has emerged in the past week is particularly encouraging. The latest bearishness is caused by suggestions that the Government will make greater demands on Railtrack. This comes on top of the appointment of a tough talking new regulator in the shape of Tom Winsor, and news that the company is planning a £27 billion spending spree that could stretch its finances. The shares have drifted lower. The peak of £17.68, hit in late November, looks far distant.

The stock was down another 21p yesterday at £14.55. It was a long way from being the worst performer of the FTSE 100, but, on a day that saw the index add more 113.7 points, Railtrack still struggled.

As the vultures circle, there is also the danger that the shares are overvalued. Even before the new, meaner, railway watchdogs begin to act, the shares yield barely 2 per cent. For a company that could soon look more like a regulated utility than a go-go property stock, that looks expensive.

In a sense, shareholders are now paying the price of their previous good fortune. Shares in this company were sold very cheaply and as the reality dawned that Railtrack was much less a transport company and much more a property play, the shares rose fourfold.

The asset backing of Railtrack and its position as a monopoly means that there is every reason to believe that the stock will perform well enough in the long term to merit its inclusion in any broad-based portfolio. But if you are looking to liquidate, and take what have been excellent profits from this privatisation, now is a good time to sell.

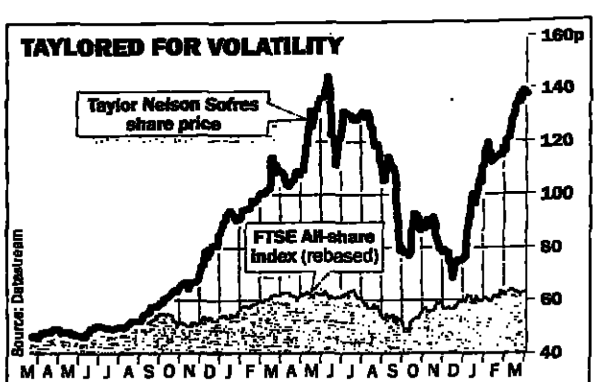
Taylor Nelson

SHAREHOLDERS in Taylor Nelson Sofres, the market research company, can blame poor presentation of its interim results in September for much of the volatility in their company's share price. Back then questions were asked about whether Sofres — for which Taylor paid £128 million in 1997 — was a more cyclical business than they had banked on.

The arrival of David Lowden as new finance director and yesterday's detailed results presentation appear to have put TNS back on a more even keel. Revised figures show that, on average, Taylor Nelson and Sofres improved their margins from 7.9 per cent to 8.3 per cent during the year to December 31. On the same revised basis, sales rose 13.7 per cent to £342 million, and pre-tax profits rose by 12.4 per cent to £25.2 million. These are encouraging figures, and suggest that the Sofres merger was a good idea after all.

Fears remain, however, over how much Taylor will be affected by the general slowdown in leading economies. Fans argue that the company performed relatively well during the last recession, and that it managed to produce 5 per cent growth in Asia last year, in spite of the region's economic woes.

These arguments go some way to justify the company's racy share price of 138p. But with the prospective p/e ratio at about 26, the shares could easily be undermined. Market research businesses are inherently volatile. Reduce.



Blue Circle

IT IS hard to fault Blue Circle's strategy to move east. Eventually it will earn handsome rewards from selling cement in emerging economies such as Malaysia, the Philippines and Chile. But it is taking time for those economies to turn.

In the meantime Blue Circle shares are yo-yoing as the long-term opportunities, then the short-term doubts, vie for investors' attention.

Yesterday's results showed that Blue Circle continues to enjoy steady earnings from its UK and North American operations, which are well entrenched in buoyant markets.

But Blue Circle has invested about £700 million in Asia in the past two years, and it will not be until this investment begins to pay that the shares will perform consistently.

The murky, although not entirely gloomy, outlook is reflected in the fact that Blue Circle shares trade on about 13 times' prospective earnings per share. This is about average for companies in the building products sector and leaves the stock well poised for a strong run on the back on any Asian recovery.

But, by most accounts, this is still a year away. There is no need to scramble after Blue Circle shares just yet.

Enterprise Inns

ENTERPRISE Inns, which yesterday unveiled a £79 million takeover of Century Inns, is one of those companies that generates contrasting opinions.

Its investors — particularly those who came in at flotation in 1995 — regard it with a sense of awe. Its shares have almost tripled to just short of 400p, while its earnings per share have been growing at a compound annual rate of 28 per cent. This, remember, in a tenanted pubs sector that the big brewers have been falling over themselves to exit.

Sceptics, however, mutter that the growth is acquisition-led and bound to end in tears. They also question its gravity-defying like-for-like sales growth at a time when many pub operators are struggling in negative territory.

Either way, and at a time when small is definitely not beautiful, Enterprise boss Ted Tuppen has not been afraid to continue growing the company such that it is now on the fringes of the FTSE 250. He also argues that, even when the takeover targets start to dry up (and there is no sign of that happening), the economies of scale he can bring, allied to reinvestment of the huge amounts of cash tenanted pubs throw off, can deliver double-digit organic growth.

The sceptics may eventually have their day, but that time still looks to be some way off.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

[illegible]

ROBUSTA COFFEE

[illegible]

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

[illegible]

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

[illegible]

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

[illegible]

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

[illegible]

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

[illegible]

BRENT (6.00pm)

[illegible]

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t) LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)

[illegible]

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

[illegible]

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

[illegible]

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

[illegible]

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE Rudolf Wolff

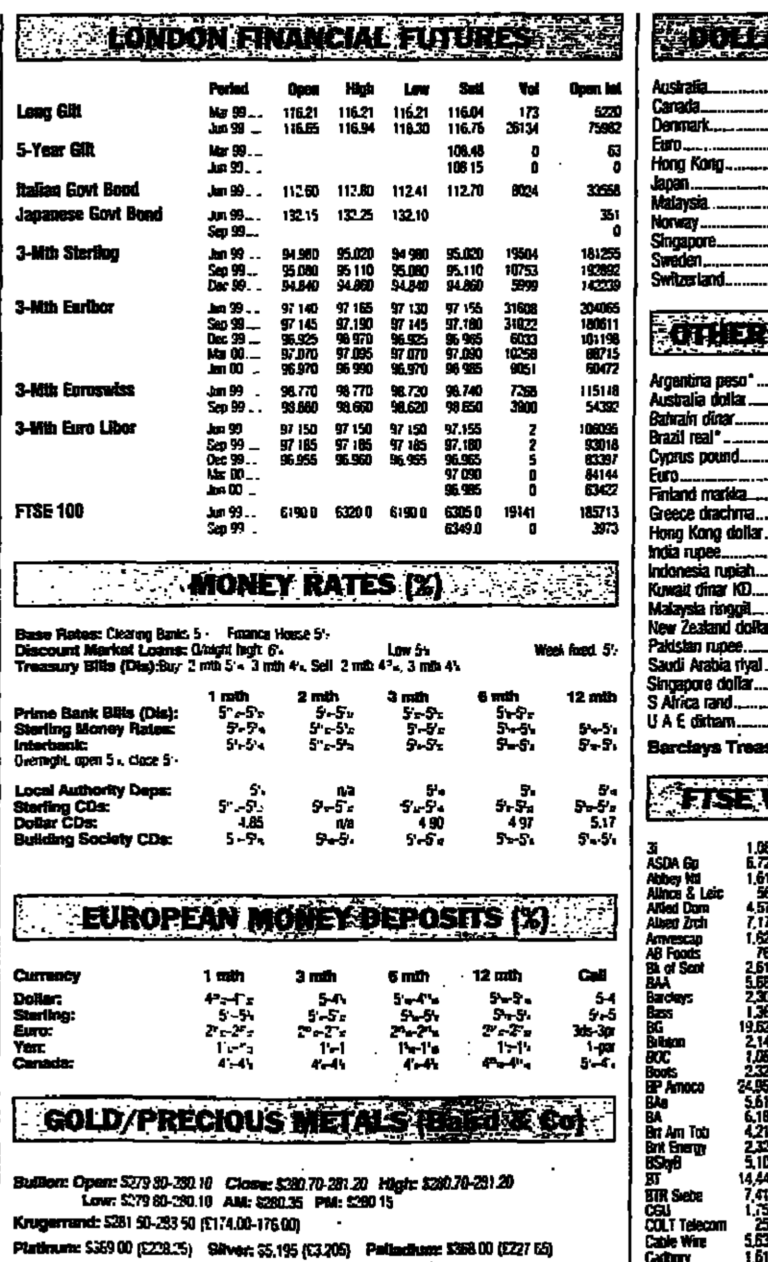
[illegible]

LIFFE OPTIONS

[illegible]

FTSE INDEX

[illegible]



LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Mar 99	116.21	116.21	116.21	116.04	173	5220
	Jun 99	116.65	116.94	116.30	116.76	26134	75982
5-Year Gilt	Mar 99				108.48	0	63
	Jun 99				108.15	0	0
Italian Govt Bond	Jun 99	112.60	112.80	112.41	112.70	8024	33558
Japanese Govt Bond	Jun 99	132.15	132.25	132.10			351
	Sep 99						0
3-Mth Sterling	Jun 99	94.980	95.020	94.980	95.020	19504	181255
	Sep 99	95.080	95.110	95.080	95.110	10753	193892
	Dec 99	94.840	94.860	94.840	94.860	5999	142239
3-Mth Euribor	Jun 99	97.140	97.165	97.130	97.155	31608	304065
	Sep 99	97.145	97.190	97.145	97.180	31022	180611
	Dec 99	96.925	96.970	96.925	96.965	6033	101198
	Mar 00	97.070	97.095	97.070	97.090	10258	88715
	Jun 00	96.970	96.990	96.970	96.985	9051	60472
3-Mth Euroswiss	Jun 99	98.770	98.770	98.730	98.740	7268	115118
	Sep 99	98.660	98.660	98.620	98.650	3900	54392
3-Mth Euro Libor	Jun 99	97.150	97.150	97.150	97.155	2	106095
	Sep 99	97.185	97.185	97.185	97.180	2	93018
	Dec 99	96.955	96.960	96.955	96.965	5	83397
	Mar 00				97.090	0	84144
	Jun 00				96.985	0	63422
FTSE 100	Jun 99	6190.0	6320.0	6190.0	6305.0	19141	185713
	Sep 99				6349.0	0	3973

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 5½ Finance House 5½

Discount Market Loans: O/night high 6¼ Low 5½ Week fixed 5½

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy 2 mth 5⅛ 3 mth 4⅞, Sell 2 mth 4²⁹⁄₃₂, 3 mth 4⅞

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight, open 5½, close 5½					
Local Authority Deps:	5¼	n/a	5⅛	5¼	5⅛
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	4.85	n/a	4.90	4.97	5.17
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Sterling:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	3ds-3pr
Yen:	[illegible]	1⅛-1	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par
Canada:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open: $279.80-280.10 **Close:** $280.70-281.20 **High:** $280.70-281.20
Low: $279.80-280.10 **AM:** $280.35 **PM:** $280.15

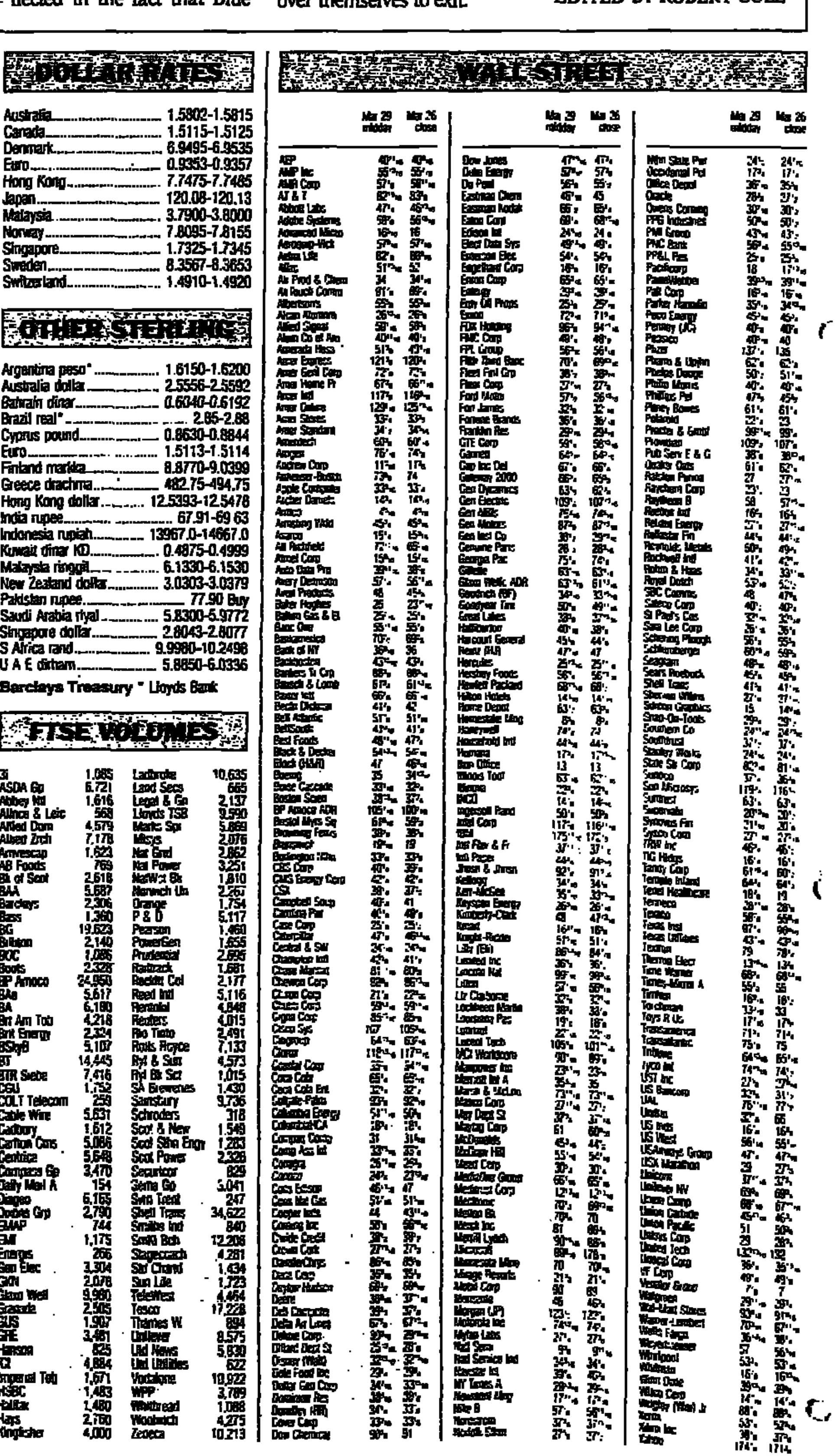
Krugerrand: $281.50-283.50 (£174.00-176.00)

Platinum: $369.00 (£228.25) **Silver:** $5.195 (£3.205) **Palladium:** $368.00 (£227.65)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for March 29	Range	Close	1 month	3 Month
Copenhagen	11.192-11.241	11.219-11.231	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro	1.5094-1.5114	1.5097-1.5110	0.12-0.14ds	0.35-0.39ds
Montreal	2.4449-2.4568	2.4464-2.4492	0.12-0.04pr	0.24-0.10pr
New York	1.6168-1.6238	1.6182-1.6190	0.675-0.475pr	0.115-0.085pr
Oslo	12.596-12.629	12.596-12.610	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	13.470-13.524	13.485-13.507	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	193.66-195.19	193.66-193.85	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich	2.4001-2.4087	2.4058-2.4084	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Extel Premium = pr Discount = ds



DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.5802-1.5815
Canada	1.5115-1.5125
Denmark	6.9495-6.9535
Euro	0.9353-0.9357
Hong Kong	7.7475-7.7485
Japan	120.08-120.13
Malaysia	3.7900-3.8000
Norway	7.8095-7.8155
Singapore	1.7325-1.7345
Sweden	8.3567-8.3653
Switzerland	1.4910-1.4920

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6150-1.6200
Australia dollar	2.5556-2.5592
Bahrain dinar	0.6040-0.6192
Brazil real*	2.85-2.88
Cyprus pound	0.8630-0.8844
Euro	1.5113-1.5114
Finland markka	8.8770-9.0399
Greece drachma	482.75-494.75
Hong Kong dollar	12.5393-12.5478
India rupee	67.91-69.63
Indonesia rupiah	13967.0-14667.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4875-0.4999
Malaysia ringgit	6.1330-6.1530
New Zealand dollar	3.0303-3.0379
Pakistan rupee	77.90 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8300-5.9772
Singapore dollar	2.8043-2.8077
S Africa rand	9.9980-10.2498
U A E dirham	5.8850-6.0336

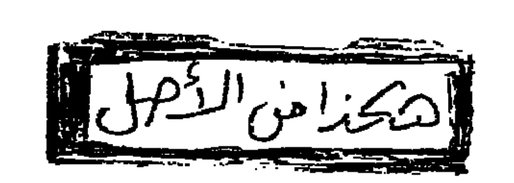
Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	1,085	Ladbroke	10,635
ASDA Gp	6,721	Land Secs	665
Abbey Ntl	1,616	Legal & Gn	2,137
Allnce & Leic	568	Lloyds TSB	9,590
Allied Dom	4,579	Marks Spr	5,869
Allied Zrch	7,178	Misys	2,076
Amvescap	1,623	Nat Grid	2,862
AB Foods	769	Nat Power	3,251
Bk of Scot	2,618	NatWst Bk	1,810
BAA	5,687	Norwich Un	2,267
Barclays	2,306	Orange	1,754
Bass	1,360	P & O	5,117
BG	19,623	Pearson	1,460
Billiton	2,140	PowerGen	1,655
BOC	1,085	Prudential	2,695
Boots	2,328	Railtrack	1,681
BP Amoco	24,950	Reckitt Col	2,177
BAe	5,617	Reed Intl	5,116
BA	6,180	Rentokil	4,848
Brt Am Tob	4,218	Reuters	4,015
Brit Energy	2,324	Rio Tinto	2,491
BSkyB	5,107	Rolls Royce	7,133
BT	14,445	Ryl & Sun	4,573
BTR Siebe	7,416	Ryl Bk Sct	1,015
CGU	1,752	SA Breweries	1,430
COLT Telecom	259	Sainsbury	9,736
Cable Wire	5,631	Schroders	318
Cadbury	1,612	Scot & New	1,549
Carlton Cms	5,086	Scot Sthn Engy	1,283
Centrica	5,648	Scot Power	2,328
Compass Gp	3,470	Securicor	829
Daily Mail A	154	Serna Gp	3,041
Diageo	6,165	Svrn Trent	247
Dixons Grp	2,790	Shell Trans	34,622
EMAP	744	Smiths Ind	840
EMI	1,175	SmKl Bch	12,208
Energis	265	Stagecoach	4,281
Gen Elec	3,304	Std Chartd	1,434
GKN	2,078	Sun Life	1,723
Glaxo Well	9,980	Telewest	4,454
Granada	2,505	Tesco	17,228
GUS	1,907	Thames W	894
GRE	3,481	Unilever	8,575
Hanson	825	Utd News	5,930
ICI	4,884	Utd Utilities	622
Imperial Tob	1,671	Vodafone	10,922
HSBC	1,483	WPP	3,789
Halifax	1,480	Whitbread	1,088
Hays	2,760	Woolwich	4,275
Kingfisher	4,000	Zeneca	10,213

WALL STREET

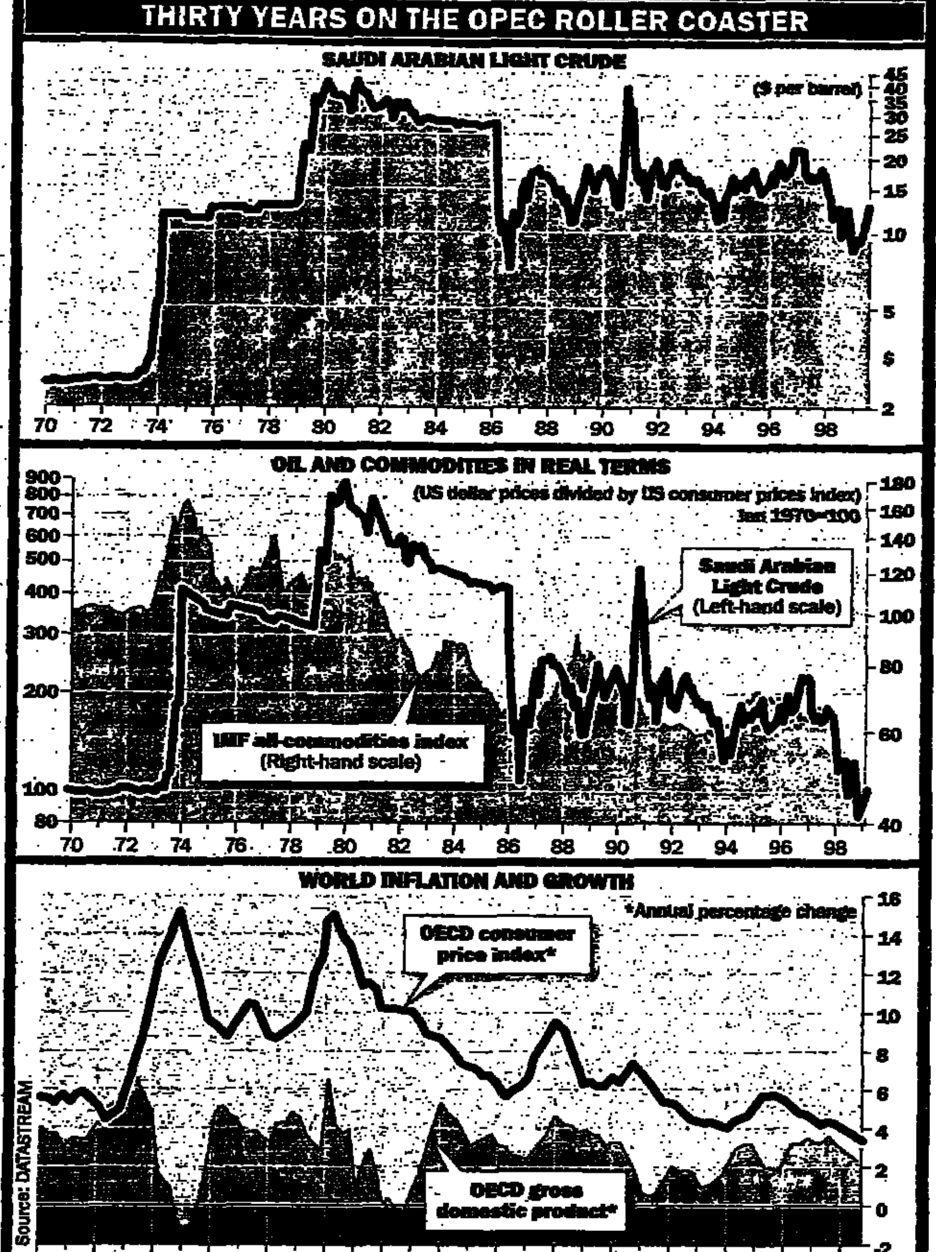
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Can Opec resist killing the cartel's golden goose?

Monopoly power should not be underestimated as prospects for sustained price rises improve



One swallow does not make a summer, but what about three swallows? Yesterday saw the announcement of the second gigantic takeover in six months by BP, a company with a better record than most for sensing which way the wind is blowing in the oil market. A week ago, the heads of state of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed on a surprisingly tough deal to limit their oil production by 2.1m barrels a day, in an effort to boost prices. And in the weeks before that agreement, the oil market saw a 40 per cent jump in prices, from $9.91 a barrel to $13.98 a barrel, in less than one month. Is it possible that these events may signal a turning point in the 20-year downward trend in the price of oil, which peaked in late 1979 at $42 a barrel, amid almost unanimous predictions that global economic activity would be crushed by a permanent energy shortage and that oil prices would rise in a straight line to $100 and above?

The obvious answer is that nobody has any real idea. Yet this question does have to be addressed somehow or other, even if it cannot be reliably answered. It has to be addressed because oil prices, even after the great oil shocks, remain one of the key determinants, and indicators, of economic conditions around the world. Each of the last three global recessions was caused, or at least preceded, by a spike in oil prices — in 1973, in 1979 and in 1990. If there were now a serious prospect of reversal in the long decline of oil prices, then many of the benign assumptions about steady non-inflationary growth and low falling interest rates built into most financial and business forecasts would have to be reviewed. The trouble is that any reliable analysis of this business seems almost impossible to come by.

As is clear from the grotesque inaccuracy of most of the experts who expouinded on this issue in the 1970s, long-term energy forecasting is a mug's game. On top of the uncertainty inherent in all economic analysis, the energy economist suffers from three additional handicaps: the political instability of the main oil producing regions; the rapid development of technologies that affect both production and consumption of energy; and the perverse operation of many of the standard laws of economics in a market where competition and monopoly are engaged in a constant tug of war.

A good example of the seesawing theories in energy economics is offered by *The Economist*. This magazine won well-deserved admiration in the 1980s for predicting, under the influence of its then deputy editor, the brilliantly idiosyncratic free market economist Norman Macrae, that Opec's greed would eventually cause an oil glut and force prices back to their pre-Opec levels. Earlier this month, *The Economist* published a widely quoted cover story entitled "Drowning in oil". This suggested that Opec was certain to fail in its efforts to control the market and that prices would fall to $5 or less. But the fact that *The Economist* proved right in the 1980s tells us very little about the accuracy of its analysis today. Its assumption that market competition would always prevail may have proved right in the long term, but it was worse than useless at the time it was first put forward, which was as early as 1973. For the next eight years Opec actually tightened its monopolistic grip and managed to force through a further trebling of oil prices and it was not until 1985, 12 years after his original predictions, that Mr Macrae's foresight was vindicated.

The point of making these comments is not to knock *The Economist*, whose analysis of the intrinsic instability of the latest Opec deal is actually very persuasive. It is simply to illustrate the dangers of analysing energy economics with either an exclusively free-market or an exclusively monopolistic approach. The best chance of success — and even then it may be only a slim one — lies in trying to understand how monopoly and competition are always shifting the balance of power in the oil market.

One possible view of this balance of power is propounded by analysts who believe that the oil price is bound to keep falling. In any competitive market, prices tend in the long run to fall towards the marginal costs of production. The cost of producing extra oil, which is about $2 a barrel in Arabia, Iraq and Iran, is still very much lower than today's market price. This suggests, to those who believe simplistically in competitive markets, that prices are bound to fall much further over time.

Such a naive belief in competion is obviously untenable, since oil prices have remained for 26 years far above the marginal costs of production. The reason for this is that Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other Middle Eastern producers have drastically limited their output — in the Saudi case to fewer than eight million barrels a day, compared with the 12 million barrels that it was producing ten years ago and a sustainable production of 15 million barrels or more that could readily be achieved with a little more drilling and investment.

But even if we replace simplistic competition with a recognition of monopoly power, the Middle East's low production costs might offer an argument for falling prices. Suppose that Opec's intention were to acquire a complete monopoly of world production. The best way to do this might be to push the oil price below the cost of production in non-Opec regions such as Alaska, Russia and the North Sea. In the US and the North Sea production costs are about $10 or $11. Thus, by boosting production and allowing prices to fall far below $10 a barrel, Opec could hope eventually to put all other oil producers out of business. Having done this, it might then hope to jack up prices and reap the rewards of its monopoly power.

Why, then, should we worry about a rise in the price of oil? Because the strategy of trying to price non-Opec producers out of the market would almost certianly fail. First, it would take many years to put high-cost oil fields that have already been explored and developed out business. While the cost of discovering and developing a new field in the North Sea may be $11, the cost of simply pumping oil from existing platforms is far lower and so existing fields would continue to produce oil for many years. Secondly, non-Opec nations, worried about energy security, would probably take action to protect their oilfields from Opec's predatory pricing.

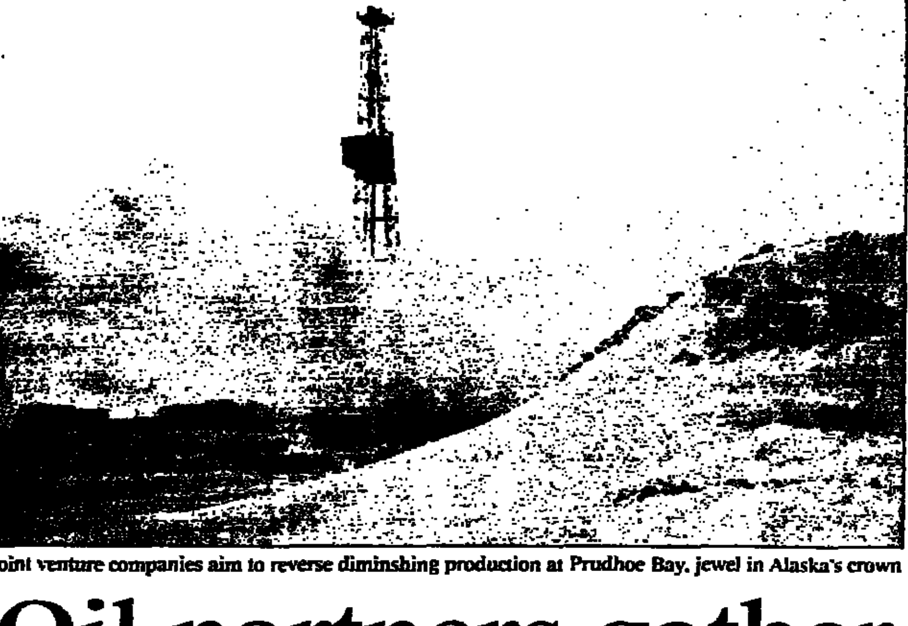
Thirdly, and most importantly, Opec would lose vast amounts of revenue, even if it could be sure of eventually winning a price war. In 1998, Opec accounted for 40 per cent of the world's total oil supply of 75.3 million barrels a day, receiving an average price of $12.28, and a profit of about $9 a barrel. Even if Opec could double its market share, this would only be worthwhile if the profit per barrel were above $4.50, implying an oil price of about $8. That would not be remotely low enough to put the rest of the world's producers permanently out of business.

This calculation draws attention to the real dilemma — and the real opprtunity — now facing Opec. It is because Opec controls almost all of the world's *marginal* oil production, that it can continue to exercise considerable monopoly power. Opec may now supply only 40 per cent of the world's oil, but any *increase* in the world's demand for oil has to be supplied almost entirely by fields within Opec.

This means that Opec, provided it can retain some unity among its members, can have very substantial leverage over prices — and can profit very handsomely by restraining its output — in periods when the global demand for oil is going up. If, for example, last week's 7 per cent cut in output quotas could permanetly raise the price by 40 per cent, all members of Opec would obviously be far better off.

What really matters to Opec and to the future course of oil prices, therefore, is whether the world economy strengthens or weakens in the years ahead. If demand rebounds after the slump caused by the Japanese recession and the Asian financial crisis, Opec would be far better off limiting its production and pushing the oil price upwards. The benefits of such a strategy to all Opec members should be so obvious that a degree of production discipline should be possible to maintain. Excluding such wild cards as the possible lifting of UN constraints on Iraqi oil production, it ought to be quite possible for Opec to push oil prices upwards, provided the world economy strengthens in the year or two ahead.

The greatest risk to Opec would be the same as it was in the 1970s. If it tries to push oil prices up too far or too quickly, it will risk killing the golden goose by precipitating a downturn in world economic growth. But if the Opec members behave rationally and circumspectly — admittedly a very big if — a period of worldwide economic recovery would offer them an excellent opportunity to push oil prices moderately higher in the years ahead.



Joint venture companies aim to reverse diminishing production at Prudhoe Bay, jewel in Alaska's crown

Oil partners gather closer to keep out Alaska's icy winds

Consolidation is the key for BP Amoco and Arco to halt output decline, writes Carl Mortished

A sudden chill has come to Alaska, causing the US state's oil industry to shiver. Sharp frosts and icy gales would not normally bother workers at Prudhoe Bay, where temperatures of minus 30 degrees are common, but this wind is blowing from an unusual source — the United Kingdom — and it can only bring unemployment.

Oil is the backbone of Alaska and the state has been struggling with diminishing tax revenues. The price of Alaskan North Slope (ANS) crude oil has been falling as its main market — the oil refineries of California — are awash with excess stocks of crude oil.

Yesterday, the two oil companies that dominate the state — BP Amoco and Atlantic Richfield — revealed that they were in discussion about combining their businesses. Together the two companies would account for two-thirds of Alaska's 1.2 million barrels per day (bpd) of production. The enlarged BP Amoco, with a market value of $195 billion would dominate the frozen state, providing most of its tax revenue but employing a diminishing number of people.

Few Alaskans would like the analogy, but the state is developing some of the characteristics of the mineral-rich countries of the Third World: it appears to be a single commodity under the control of one large foreign multinational, sucking out the oil and sucking in the dollars.

The trouble with Alaska is that oil production is in decline. BP and Arco operate Prudhoe Bay, the jewel in Alaska's crown as a joint venture and both companies are working flat out to reverse the field's diminishing output. Arco's slogan is "no decline in 1999" but the last three years have seen oil output from its Prudhoe Bay interests fall from 211,000 bpd to 175,000.

BP Amoco predicted last year that in 1999 it would stem Prudhoe's 12 per cent per annum fall in output and had ambitious development plans to transform decline into growth by developing new fields. But the low oil price has set back projects. "It is a mature province," comments Paul Spedding of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson.

BP is a past master at sweating assets. Clearly, if it cannot grow it can at least make more money from what it has and two sets of overheads are what it does not need on the North Slope. Alaska is not a cheap operating environment and with last year's $8-10 per barrel price for ANS crude, oil companies were making little return after depreciation.

Yet, Alaska boasts some of the largest US oil reserves, including the National Petroleum Reserve, 33,000 square miles set aside by the US Navy in 1923 to ensure oil supplies at times of scarcity. An important wildlife sanctuary, the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge, is reckoned to contain 11 billion barrels of oil. Alaska has been lobbying to open up these federal lands for oil production and Washington recently announced that part of the NPRA would be leased, causing a furore among environmentalists. The area is home to caribou, grizzlies, polar bears and migratory birds.

In the Wildlife Refuge BP is the only company to have drilled a well, at the invitation of a Native American-owned company. The results have been secret for 13 years, doubtless awaiting the right political climate to develop.

But the domination of BP Amoco in Alaska may even make the conservative, pro-oil Alaskan Government a little nervous. Arco and BP Amoco will control the lion's share of Alyeska, the company that owns the transalaska pipeline, not to mention the biggest oil asset, Prudhoe Bay. If Arco submits to BP Amoco's embrace, most of the state's producing oil reserves will end up in the pocket of one of the most ruthless cost-cutters in the oil industry, Sir John Browne, and a foreigner to boot.

Alaska is probably the key to Browne's strategy as it offers the bggest potential for cutting costs as well as long-term opportunies but Arco provides other advantages. The deal, if it comes off, would be more about filling spaces in the jigsaw than the vast pooling of overlapping operations that the merger with Amoco entailed.

In refining and marketing BP Amoco is focused on the East Coast and Midwest of the United States, while Arco is a West Coast player with two refineries, one in Washington State and another in Los Angeles.

Elsewhere, Arco offers a stake in South-East Asia, where BP Amoco is deemed to be weak. Arco paid $2.5 billion for Union Texas Petroleum in June last year, a deal which brought with it oil properties in the North Sea, Indonesia and Venezuela. Arco is building up an Asian gas play comprising Tanggu, a liquified natural gas project offshore of Indonesia and gas assets in Thailand acquired from Triton Energy.

Mike Bowlin, Arco's chief executive, told his shareholders in March that Arco could achieve economies of scale without being a "supermajor", a BP Amoco, Shell or Exxon. A whole section of the Arco annual report boasted of what the company's various alliances, including Prudhoe Bay with BP, had achieved without the need for mergers.

Perhaps Sir John was very persuasive or perhaps the hill proved too tough to climb. The oil price has recovered a little from its nadir but recent pain has allowed the strong to profit from the weak and that has probably sealed the fate of Arco.

Unholy war

IT MAY be insularity, but the row in Scotland over the link forged by the Bank of Scotland with American TV evangelist Pat Robertson has been largely missed south of Hadrian's Wall. Now 34 MPs have joined together to bring an Early Day Motion in the Commons deploring the deal.

The Bank hoped to gain access to the claimed 55 million viewers of Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network. But Robertson has been vilified in Scotland because his views are allegedly anti-gay, anti-feminist and anti pretty well anything else new Labour stands for.

The MPs include old campaigners Tam Dalyell and Dennis Skinner and the former Competition Minister, Nigel Griffiths. The motion has little chance of going anywhere but is designed to draw attention to the affair.

There has already been a unanimous vote of censure by councillors of the bank's home town, Edinburgh. BoS last night said it was a "strictly business relationship" that would be "great for Scotland".

Curious. I do not remember all this fuss when Robertson last did a deal on these shores. He bid for what was left of TVS, the regional television company, in 1992.



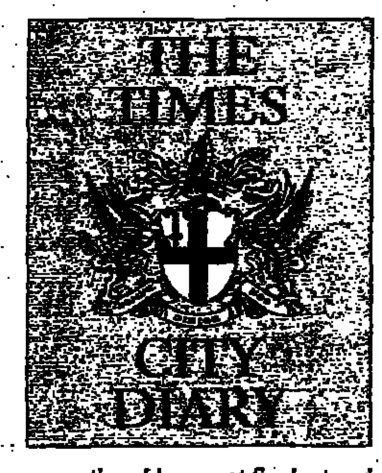
"Are you sure you haven't got the price tag the wrong way round"

WELL, my tip on the William Hill free Spring Double failed to come in, but I hear the bookie is not out of the woods yet. William Hill has provided 90,000 free £20 bets to investors disappointed when the flotation was pulled earlier this year.

An unspecified number plumped for the favourite in both races, and in the Lincoln the favourite, Right Wing, duly won on Saturday.

This means that if the same happens at the National in a fortnight it could cost William Hill rather more than £1 million, at today's odds. Of course the odds are not fixed yet and Double Thriller, the current favourite, may not run.

But if it wins ... The bookie seemed unconcerned last night. "It's not often that both favourites win the Spring Double, but sod's law being what it is, it will probably happen this time," a spokesman said.



Home run

ALASTAIR EPERON has come a long way since he was a humble spokesman for the Housing Corporation, the quango responsible for housing associations. He is now (deep breath) director-general of corporate affairs at Boots, chairman of the CBI's distributive trades survey and deputy chairman of the British Retail Consortium. Someone else who has travelled a long way in the same time is John Baker, including a spell as chairman of National Power.

Eperon has been invited by Sir Clive Thompson, president of the CBI, to join its finance and general purposes committee, which administers the budget.

The committee is chaired by John Baker, the same man who in 1975 hired a certain spokesman for the Housing Corporation job. "He hasn't changed a bit," claims Eperon.

PERHAPS Eperon could use his new position to look into this one. A reader is the finance director of a company supplying Year 2000 compliance solutions to safeguard computers from the millennium bug.

He has been approached by the CBI, which wants his company to advertise in the official CBI diary, in the "Year 2000 Compliance" section. The diary is for the year 2001, by which time the bug will have done its worst. The CBI is unrepentant. "It's dealt with by an outside company," says a spokeswoman. "They obviously think the problem is going to last well into 2001."

Crystal clear

SO ARE we really going to see a revived Liverpool Football Club with a stock market quote, as suggested at the weekend? Sadly, the chances seem about as good as an away win against Mancester United.

Liverpool, I am told, feels that in today's changing climate every club of any size needs a merchant bank. Any flotation would mean dilution of the 60 per cent stake held by David Moores, the chairman, who is committed to the club.

But what of the Schroders team that has been brought on? Not a Liverpool supporter among them — Iain Robertson is Man United. And Alan Jacobs is an (unwilling) Chelsea season ticket holder. "I'm a lifelong Palace supporter, but my kids support Chelsea," he tells me. "There's nothing like spending money on a season ticket to change your allegiance."

MARTIN WALLER
city.diary@the-times.co.uk



Michael Owen and his side find no support at the Schroders team

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
ACM INVESTMENTS LTD				
0171 470 0100				
Short Dtd Gvt	139.20	140.70		
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.8471	0.8558	+ 0.05	
Gilt Income	55.19	56.05†	- 0.01	5.40
Gilt Growth	100.60	102.20		
Sterling Bond	56.11	57.11‡	...	5.50
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 497 7866				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	147.39	157.06	+ 0.52	
-do- NAV to Jun 18	145.58	145.58		
UK Equity Safeguard	118.66	126.91	- 0.34	3.18
-do- NAV to Mar 19	116.058	116.0506		
US Eqy Safeguard	97.29	103.33	+ 0.62	
Cash	955.90	960.66	...	6.25
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	438.91	467.98	+ 4.52	1.24
UK Small Cos	96.19	102.87	+ 0.39	0.35
FTSE 250 Index	110.47	118.14	- 0.19	1.97
Geared UK Index	#25.081	#26.455	+ 0.51	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	87.97	90.93	- 0.15	5.78
Monthly Inc	44.09	47.16†	+ 0.03	8.95
International Funds				
American Gen	385.75	407.78	- 0.70	
American Strat	175.67	187.53	- 0.19	
JG UG Index	#30.638	#32.379	+ 0.54	4.50
European Gen	430.10	456.13	- 4.80	0.09
European Strat	203.55	217.91	- 2.32	
Japan Gen	117.25	123.91	- 0.47	

Shares close at best of day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1998/99 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
646	385	Allied Domecq	459½	- 5½	5.9	11.6
412½	279½	Bulmer (HP)	307½	- 1	6.1	13.7
42½	7	Burn Stewart	11½	...	...	...
795	432	Diageo	684	- 10	2.7	17.0
900	550	Glenmorangie A	560	...	3.2	15.2
325	225	Highland Dist	231½	...	5.0	10.6
58½	18½	Morgan W	26	...	...	...

BANKS

1998/99 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1618½	890½	ABN-AMRO	1271½	+ 25	3.0	16.0
1390	860	Abbey Natl	1278	- 13	3.0	17.6
1032	585	Alliance & Leic	856	- 13½	3.1	15.4
1262½	587½	Allied Irish	1056½	+ 4	2.3	...
458½	293½	Aus New Z	449½	+ 3½	4.5	...
6075	3237½	Bank America	4316½	...	...	...
949	431	Bank Scotland	830½	+ 3	1.6	20.8
1996	827	Barclays	1708	+ 8	3.3	19.1
1487½	882½	Bk of Ireland	1249	+ 6½	2.2	28.5
2484½	1565½	Commerzbk	1834½	+ 6½	2.8	...
643½	218½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	412½	- 3½	1.1	...
5368½	3108½	Deutsche Bk	3278½	+ 31½	2.3	...
1206½	925	Espirito Santo	996½	...	3.9	...

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

CONSTRUCTION

DISTRIBUTORS

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MEDIA

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

PHARMACEUTICALS

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

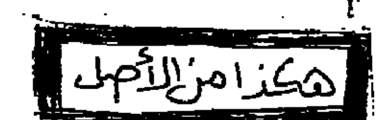
SHORTS (under 5 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of: 5% 3%





FILM

Liz Hurley finds a nice little earner

PAGE 33

THE TIMES

ARTS

THEATRE

Foul-mouthed but fervent at the Bush

PAGE 34





Sorry, the Tin Can Lady missed out

Entries for the *Times*/Artangel Open ran from the weird to the wonderful and back, says judge Richard Cork

When the *Times*/Artangel Open was launched last September, we hoped that the competition would ignite widespread interest and generate some astonishing applications. It was, after all, aimed at any British-based artist with an adventurous project in mind, and no restrictions were placed on the form or medium employed. Only one condition was stipulated: that the work should be conceived in response to a particular UK place or building not customarily used for the arts. But in every other respect freedom reigned, and anything seemed possible.

Before the proposals started coming in, Artangel had no inkling of the likely response. The art commissioning company's co-directors, James Lingwood and Michael Morris, had never organised an open submission. As for *The Times*, we realised that no national newspaper had hitherto been prepared to sponsor an artwork that did not yet exist. It was a risky enterprise, and suspense grew as the December 18 deadline approached.

We were not disappointed. Hundreds of elaborate submissions, many backed up by batteries of slides, videos and lengthy statements, bombarded Artangel's London office. Then, on the final morning, the staff there were astounded to be given a special Post Office delivery of more than 100 registered packages. No sooner had they received them than a stream of artists started ringing the bell in person, handing in parcels too bulky or fragile to be pushed through the letterbox. They continued to arrive all day, and one contender sat on the narrow office staircase for a couple of hours, frantically writing his submission while Artangel staff struggled past him to deal with other last-minute callers at the door.

Once this cascade of material had been put into coherent order, copies were sent out to the artists Brian Eno and Rachel Whiteread. They, along with Lingwood, Morris and myself, were confronted with the task of assessing the proposals and selecting two winners — one to be implemented this autumn, and the other next year. It was a strenuous experience, at once illuminating, unpredictable, hilarious, baffling and studded with surprises. By the time all five of us met for a day-long discussion on January 22, we wondered how the deluge of dizzying possibilities could ever be narrowed down to a coherent outcome.

Artangel, however, seems to thrive on seemingly insurmountable challenges — the company inscription on the wall behind my chair declared: "I Believe in Miracles."

Some of the applications confronting us were frankly bizarre. One artist wanted to erect a monumental statue of Baroness Thatcher called *The Devil of the South*. Equipped with horns, a three-pronged fork and a handbag marked "Sin", this near-200ft apparition would be made out of recycled Brown Ale cans and straddle the Hog's Back hillside in Surrey. The artist did admit that "I envisage some problems with planning legislation", but plenty of the submissions entertained no such misgivings. One visionary proposal wanted to "seed the oceans of the world" with 2,000 "art pods". Whether "towed out to sea from the major UK ports" or "released by hot air balloons", they would each carry "an artistic message, comprehensible in any language".

Other projects, while rooted reassuringly on terra firma, were scarcely less headlong. "I want to build a supermarket," announced one defiant applicant, while another suggested "the cutting of a giant chalk pound sign" on a hill in southeast England, as "a permanent memorial to the impact of the pound on British culture".



Judging entries for the *Times*/Artangel Open: from left, artist Brian Eno, Michael Morris of Artangel, Richard Cork and James Lingwood of Artangel

A similar gigantism ran riot in many submissions. The hand-knitted tea cosy, large enough to cover a Shetland croft house, sounded grandiose enough. But one artist wanted to saturate an entire town with digitally controlled red light. Stranger still were the colossal ear and nose sculptures, "facial extrusions" to be built in country locations as "monuments to the senses".

But the most daunting of all these mega-projects took London as their target. A team of artists proposed erecting a 130ft section of a concrete bridge in the middle of Green Park. As for the Thames, it became the focus of an apparently nightmarish scheme to place "a Boeing 737 passenger aeroplane" on the river near Tower Bridge, supported by a submerged barge. "The sculpture," explained the team, "is an arbitrary realisation of childlike desires, indulging the desire by achieving an absurd vision."

Some proposals, inevitably, centred on *The Times* itself. One applicant aimed at staging a retrospective exhibition in a Fleet Street location of 100 paintings each made "by pulping an issue of *The Times* and making the pulp into a painting (by bonding it with colourless acrylic)". A less aggressive scheme entailed asking all *Times* contributors to compose their articles for one edition in longhand, printing the result as an unashamedly handwritten newspaper.

However diverting all these schemes may have been, they proved easier to assess than the ten we singled out for closer scrutiny. During the course of another intense day in February, the artists all came to see us and discuss their ideas in more detail. It was an invaluable exercise. Open submissions always disclose a host of unfamiliar names, and there is no substitute for meeting the most promising candidates face to face.

Their projects were fascinating and various, ranging from a filmed exploration of the eerily deserted Victorian hotel at St Pancras station to a robust celebration of the remote Scottish islands of St Kilda, intended to mark the 70th anniversary of their final, poignant evacuation in August 1930. By dramatic contrast, another scheme involved constructing a magical grotto in an oil tanker, viewable by climbing up inside the glittering, shell-like space "to find yourself in the middle of a pool".

After much debate and a further meeting, we finally settled on two other schemes. The proposal scheduled for 2000 will be announced later, but *The Times* plans to reveal this year's winner in early May. The judges agreed that it promises to provide a bold, provocative and above all unforgettable experience.

Songs in the low key of life

POP

Wilco

Empire, W12

In the parallel pop world, where "alternative" acts hold sway and gushing critical notices are the currency of success, Wilco are nothing short of deities. And the Illinois band led by singer, guitarist and songwriter Jeff Tweedy are not doing so badly in the real world either, where their third album, *Summerteeth*, briefly bit into the British Top 40 and American Top 80 earlier this month. But it is in concert that the essence of the group is revealed.

On stage at Shepherds Bush on Saturday they followed their own code of conduct. Passionate about their music but quite insular as performers, they scrupulously avoided any flashy displays of bravado, whether musical or emotional. Behind them the set was bare, save for three large discs each bearing the rather ugly image of a milky-white face with jagged teeth, hazily emerging as if from the surface of the moon.

What claimed the attention, therefore, was a performance in which the song was very much the thing. Starting at a surprisingly soft level with *I'm Always in Love*, they maintained an initially low-key approach with a delicate *How to Fight Loneliness* and a tightly restrained version of *Via Chicago*, during which Jay Bennett chopped out some exquisite Neil Young-influenced guitar lines. Tweedy's voice, a variable instrument which at times offered little more than a parched croak, was shored up by imaginative harmonies resembling those of the Beach Boys but more raggedly executed.

It was a touching display, but by the time they reached *Red-Eyed and Blue*, with its whimsical whistling passage, there were calls of "turn it up" emanating from the cheap seats.

ANGELA LUBRANO





Killing them softly: Jeff Tweedy, laid-back leader of Wilco

Whether coincidentally or not, the band duly obliged with *I Got You (at the End of the Century)*, giving an initial glimpse of their rock'n'roll credentials as the guitarists squared up properly to the audience for the first time. From there the show gradually built up a considered head of steam, with a rapid turnover of old favourites such as *Monday* and *Forget the Flowers* stacked alongside new songs including *Can't Stand It* and *She's A Jar*.

A couple of numbers — *Hesitating Beauty* and *California Stars* — from Wilco's album of Woody Guthrie songs recorded with *Billy Bragg* highlighted the band's country-folk leanings and proved a popular choice.

When Wilco last played at the Empire, two years ago, the show ended in ill-tempered anarchy, for which Tweedy this time apologised. Tightly scripted and without the histrionics, this was a much better display by a band whose sensitive musical vision is never going to be enhanced by amateur dramatics.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Take notes for the test afterwards

Nick Cave

Gaiety, Dublin

A Sunday afternoon seems like the least appropriate time to see a creature of the night such as Nick Cave, but given the massive demand for tickets and the tightness of his schedule, this matinee show was added.

Amazingly this also marked Cave's first public performance in Dublin in seven years. Back then he and his band, the Bad Seeds, gave a thundering display that delighted in dirty devilish degeneracy. But this current show could not have been more different. Instead of being forgathered in a low-rent sleazy hall, we were now comfortably seated in the glamorous, graceful Gaiety, gazing at a grand piano. Instead of being sucked into the belly of the beast, we were now being invited into his heart.

For Cave centred this show on an astonishingly articulate lecture he gave, titled *The Secret Life of the Love Song*, which consisted of nothing less than a rigorously intellectual investigation into the form, structure, motivation and effects of the love lyric, from ancient biblical psalms to the contemporary pop song.

Using projections on a large screen to illustrate his arguments, Cave's scholarly exposition contained both professional observations of real depth and intelligence vis-à-vis songwriting, and personal reflections of disarming emotional honesty concerning his late father, old paramours and his religious beliefs. Even on the few occasions when it seemed a bit indulgent or high-falutin, Cave would instinctively ground it with an earthy deadpan quip or deconstruct, quite convincingly I might add, an old Kylie Minogue hit.

Of course, punctuating the lecture were Cave's own love songs (specifically *West Country Girl*, *People Ain't No Good*, *Far From Me* and a magnificent new song called *Love Letter*), which he performed on the grand piano, accompanied by understated bass, violin and occasional brush drumming. When the talk was over, Cave finished up with a half-hour set featuring some of his most beautiful, bitter-sweet *billets-doux* and radical reworkings of more hardcore material from his back pages.

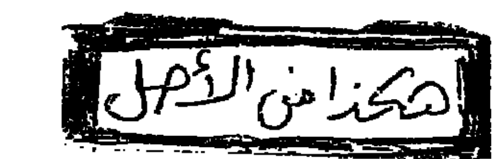
Of the former, *Sad Waters*, *Into My Arms* and the closing *Ship Song* were brimming with the kind of mournful, melancholic majesty that could move, in the emotional sense of the word, a mountain. Interspersed with these was *The Mercy Seat*, that frighteningly intense interior monologue of a condemned man at the moment of his execution, and a hugely entertaining *Stagger Lee*, an expletive-riddled, melodramatic murder ballad.

Cave's deep and deeply soulful voice is by turns vulnerable and vengeful, according to the mood required. Hearing the love songs is genuinely spiritually fortifying and, when one also considers all the ones he didn't play, Cave has to be placed alongside the likes of his self-declared heroes — Dylan, Cohen, Waits and Neil Young — as one of the finest balladeers there has ever been.

His fellow Australians the Dirty Three were a brilliant choice of support act. An inspired instrumental trio led by the virtuoso violinist Warren Ellis — who plays his instrument with Hendrix-like abandon — they specialise in eddying, hypnotic soundscapes that repeatedly climb and fall.

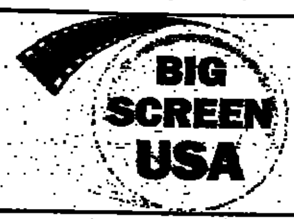
Not a bad way to spend a Sunday afternoon, then.

NICK KELLY



After Carrey, the true man show

The new hit at the box office, *EDtv*, accomplishes the difficult feat of starring Elizabeth Hurley and impressing Giles Whittell



One of the best moments in *EDtv* has the eponymous Ed heading for a hot date with Elizabeth Hurley — *at her place* — trailed by a camera crew and cheered on by a vast crowd as if he were about to win a stage of the Tour de France. The crowd knows about the date because Ed's life is on television 24 hours a day, channelled to them by a nerd in a satellite truck that follows him everywhere. As Ed steps over Hurley's threshold and she signals with slutty glances to the camera that fullblown naughtiness is just seconds away, the nerd in the truck, whom discerning viewers will recognise from mission control in *Apollo 13*, can barely contain himself. "Hot damn," he yells to the station over his microwave link. "We are go for sex!"

It will always be diverting to see Miss Hurley's buttocks clench and unclench under tight red vinyl, but there is more to this moment than titillation. It manages simultaneously to spoof Nasa, satirise "reality programming" and ridicule the whole gargantuan beast that television culture has become — which is about as sophisticated as things get in this otherwise undemanding film about a life turned inside out by cameras.

The sex for which everyone is go never actually happens. It falls victim to gravity and a beautiful grey cat in the sort of slapstick to which *EDtv*, unlike last year's similar but far more ambitious *The Truman Show*, often resorts. The other big difference between the two films is that unlike Jim Carrey's Truman, Matthew McConaughey's Ed Pekurny knows he is being filmed. In fact he auditioned for the honour, is being paid for it, and at first enjoys it. His half-witted bozo of a character is the lucky winner of a talent-spotting dragnet thrown over San Francisco by a documentary cable TV station floundering so badly in the ratings that, as its desperate general manager points out, "We're getting our butts kicked by the Gardening Channel."

That manager is played, rather well, by Ellen DeGeneres, and it's her idea to scrap all existing programming in favour of round-the-clock coverage of one average citizen who "might be good on screen — or, even better, might be bad". Her reasoning: whatever he is, he can't be worse than what they already have on the air.

Or can he? Pekurny turns out to be the sort of guy who takes half an hour over his toenail clipping because he considers it an art. After a week, DeGeneres is pleading with the high-ups for a few more days to prove her idea can fly.

She is saved by Ed's brother, a gym-crazed exhibitionist played to horrible perfection by Woody Harrelson, whom Ed and the camera crew inadvertently catch in the act of two-timing his girlfriend. Ratings instantly tick upwards. They surge when Ed claims the wronged girlfriend as his own, and *USA Today* is soon running front-page polls on whom Ed should really be dating now that he's famous. When DeGeneres contrives the tryst with Hurley the audience is bigger than the Super Bowl's and the station decides to prolong *EDtv* indefinitely. "He's a Beatle," DeGeneres exults. "Well, not a Beatle. He's a Spice Girl. Or a Beany Baby."

The trouble is, by this time Ed wants out. The film enjoys reminding us, as if we needed reminding, that celebrities don't have much privacy nowadays. Its director, Ron Howard, was a child star from the age of six, and Hurley, McConaughey and DeGeneres have all been through the wringer of sudden fame. Between them they inject into the proceedings a distinct admonition to TV executives and audiences along the lines of: "See? What you do to us is not nice."

Also in the realm of the obvious, we see how television can unite huge numbers of people in none-too-edifying ways (such as baying for glimpses of Hurley's flesh), and we hear once again, in a comic echo of *Natural Born Killers* and countless editorials, that celebrity has become "its own virtue". If so, the most virtuous man in the film is naturally Ed — well-meaning and well-muscled, but ill-shaven and an utter nobody. At 31, he works in a video store with no prospect of doing anything else. With a beer bottle perpetually slung from his neck on a rope, he's a blue-collar version of the slobs played by Matthew Perry and Matt LeBlanc on *Friends*. This may be Hollywood's idea of noble Joe Public, or — stay with me — it may be Hollywood's idea of the television industry's idea of same. Either way, the assumption that we will relate to him is, if not insulting, at least risky.

The risk is compounded by the choice of McConaughey to play him. Hailed as Hollywood's new golden boy in 1996, he seemed to warrant the title in *A Time To Kill*, in which he famously nailed the climactic court scene in a single take. But after his supremely irritating performances in *Contact* and *Amistad* his star fell as quickly as it had risen: for an entire year he barely worked.

The critics have been kind to him this time. His "blond good looks and irrepressible spirit" carry the film, said *The Washington Post*. He "exudes charm and casual sexual attractiveness", purred the *Los Angeles Times*. The truth is he is still too self-conscious about his sex appeal, but is sufficiently inert here not to sabotage a film whose true joys are its cameos. DeGeneres may have been drummed off her own sitcom but she's on top form here. So is Rob Reiner as her boss, and, darn it, so is Hurley. She cannot act, as she more or less admits when her character introduces herself to Ed as "a model and sort of an actress". But that level of self-parody is just what is needed to make watching her a guilty pleasure — for us, as for the nerd in the truck.



Matthew McConaughey and Elizabeth Hurley as the average Joe star of his own 24-hour TV show and his glamorous love interest in *EDtv*

US WEEKEND BOX-OFFICE TAKINGS AND ANALYSIS

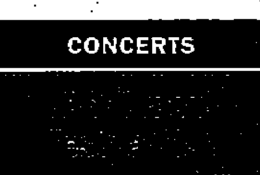
1	(1)	**Forces of Nature** (DreamWorks)	$9.6m/$13.5m
2	(-)	**EDtv** (Universal)	$9m/—
3	(2)	**Analyze This** (Warner Bros)	$8.8m/$57.2m
4	(-)	**The Mod Squad** (MGM)	$6.1m/—
5=	(9)	**Shakespeare in Love** (Miramax)	$4.4m/£73.2m
5=	(-)	**Doug's 1st Movie** (Disney)	$4.4m/—
7	(3)	**True Crime** (Warner Bros)	$3.3m/$$5.3m
8	(-)	**Life is Beautiful** (Miramax)	$3.2m/$$36m
9	(4)	**Baby Geniuses** (TriStar)	$2.7m/$11.8m
10	(5)	**Cruel Intentions** (Columbia)	$2.4m/$29.9m

● *First amount is estimated weekend takings, March 26-28. Second amount is total takings to March 22. Figure in brackets indicates last week's position*

● The Sandra Bullock romantic comedy *Forces of Nature* retained its top spot. But elsewhere the "Oscar effect" gave a box-office boost to *Shakespeare in Love*, up 48 per cent on the previous week after winning seven Academy Awards, and to *Life is Beautiful*, which came into the Top Ten for the first time after winning three Oscars

A big hand for the maestro

CONCERTS



Kurt Masur is setting his mark on the London Philharmonic Orchestra, of which he is principal conductor-designate, in no uncertain terms. At the weekend it was through Bruckner and Strauss — particularly Bruckner, whose Fourth Symphony was given a performance which epitomised much at the very heart of the venerable German conductor's musicianship.

No sooner had his batonless hands begun to draw the whispered once-upon-a-time opening from this most shamelessly and overtly Romantic of symphonies than the maestro's musical vision began to bestride those broad-set Bruckner triplets as they grew in intensity.

The pipes and pedals of the organ which breathe through so much of Bruckner's musical thinking were clearly uppermost in Masur's mind, too, as he drew long-breathed, steadily blended chords from the brass, and from every successive orchestral tutti.

But this movement was as remarkable for Masur's skill in defusing as well as amassing energy. The way he unwound Bruckner's sequences of descending chromatic scales and little dying woodwind falls created a potent context for the further development of those spectral horncalls from the shadows.

The miracle of the slow movement was that, the more deeply the music breathed, the more momentum it seemed to gather. The violin bows seemed to double in length, so sustained were their lines: yet this seemed to ease rather than inhibit the phrasing's ebb and flow.

And then the Scherzo which Bruckner said represented the gallop of the hunt. In Masur's hands it was fast, light, almost capricious as woodwind teased brass, and brass in turn taunted the strings. The entire orchestra seemed to be a-quiver.

The players had been at their most sentient, too, as accompanists to Felicity Lott in Richard Strauss's *Four Last Songs*. Spring rustled as it should, with short-bowed strings buoying up Lott's lightly suspended soprano, and the entire song most delicately hand-moulded by Masur through to its final pizzicato chord. Lott ensured that summer was still heard laughing through September's obsequies; and Masur's consummate skill in folding line through long, perfectly balanced line made sleep and sunset into a single continuum of experience.

HILARY FINCH

Bold message to the world

There were dramatic jolts galore in Jonathan Harvey's church opera *Passion and Resurrection*, performed in a concert version here last Thursday. Tenor and bass trombones growled, cymbals and bells shuddered and clanged, haloes of string harmonics swirled round the vocalists. The audience — shock horror — was even asked to sing, standing up to navigate two plainchant hymns with an encouraging wave from the conductor, Martin Neary.

Neary knows *Passion and Resurrection* well: he commissioned the work, gave the premiere at Winchester Cathedral in 1981, and toured it round the country. It remains one of the best introductions to Harvey's world, with eclectic influences that stretch from the choral certainties of the Anglican Church to the cosmic questionings of 1960s Stockhausen. This was a compelling performance, with the BBC Singers and the orchestra Sinfonia 21 in fine fettle.

The opening notes grow from Anglican verses and responses, but the journey soon takes us through other sound worlds, with Michael Wadsworth's libretto, largely translated from a 12th-century Latin Passion Play, as our guide. At first the road ahead seems rocky: spartan vocal lines for Jesus and Disciples, simple accompaniment coloured according to the characters' sanctity (dark bleats on trombones, drums and double-basses for Judas; radiant violins for Jesus). But Harvey is thinking long-term, holding back the expressive heights until the powerful scenes of Crucifixion and Resurrection.

The BBC Singers shifted position with the drama, but Stuart Macintyre's Jesus always stayed centred and resonant. Andrew Mackenzie-Wicks's Pilate was equally forthright, leaping securely into his falsetto as he delivered Jesus for Crucifixion. Alison Smart's Mary Magdalene and the other ladies came into their own in the final scene, *The Resurrection Garden*, florid lines intertwined, garlanded by lush instrumental shrubbery.

The ending was pure magic. After funnelling itself into an Anglican blessing, the music dispatched the four brass players into the audience, through the doors, onto the church steps, blasting the Resurrection message into the world outside. Perhaps they could hear it at Westminster Abbey, Neary's former home, just a few streets away.

GEOFF BROWN

Twin peers of the Baroque

IN SPITE, or perhaps because, of an unexceptional programme, this concert evoked a slice of Baroque musical life. Works by Telemann and Bach written within a few years of each other made up the whole evening, but there was no lack of variety between them or in the way they were presented by Florilegium, the Wigmore Hall's resident Baroque ensemble. This was also a concert that stressed the links between these two German masters: it was Telemann, godfather to Bach's second son, who first declined the Leipzig post in which Bach spent the greatest part of his career.

Both composers were supremely practical, and Bach would have been the last to worry that here his Easter music was being performed in Lent. After all, the *Easter Oratorio* was first heard a few weeks before its official premiere with different words and in the guise of a local duke's birthday cantata. The music's almost secular exuberance came across right from the high-spirited opening.

There are also moments of introspection, above all the tenor aria *Sanfte soll mein Todeskummer*, which with its gently purling recorders forms the calm centre of the work. Iain Paton sang with plenty of lyrical warmth here, though, like the bright-toned soprano Rachel Elliott in her aria, sounded slightly insecure in the more exposed passages. The alto Sally Bruce-Payne was the most communicative soloist, singing the best German and capturing Mary Magdalene's excitement in her smoothly flowing lines. Thomas Guthrie's baritone completed a well-balanced quartet.

The Sinfonia to Bach's Cantata *Am Abend aber desselbigen Sabbaths* made an arresting opening to this concert, with piquant "period" oboes adding to the vitality of the sound. Here Florilegium exploited the music's tension to the full. They also found the humour and beauty of the overture and dances from Part One of Telemann's *Tafelmusik*. With just strings, harpsichord and flutes, Telemann conjures up an amazing spectrum of instrumental colour, and the musicians responded with elegance and drama.

JOHN ALLISON

BUILDING A LIBRARY

A guide to the best available classical records on CD, presented in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

■ BRAHMS'S PIANO QUINTET Reviewed by William Mival

Composers don't always exactly know what they are doing. You would think from something as poised as Brahms's Piano Quintet in F minor, Op 34, that the ideas came to him in exactly that form, so perfect is the balance between musical content and the combination of piano and string quartet. But, like many of Brahms's earlier works, the quintet was written and rewritten over a period of years and began life as a piece for strings alone, modelled on the inspiration of Schubert. Brahms then turned it into a sonata for two pianos. He wasn't happy with that either, and instead seized on his friend Clara Schumann's suggestion that the music needed both piano and strings for its full effect.

It took a while to get there, but the final result is one of the most enriching experiences in chamber music. A satisfying performance of the Brahms Piano Quintet is all about balance. All kinds of subtle equilibriums have to be agreed. Pianists who see themselves as a kind of "first among equals" either misunderstand the quintet or are abusing it. Brahms pitches all five performers at the same high level. In this Quintet everyone has to do the musical equivalent of drinking only the best champagne.

Elisabeth Leonskaja and the Alban Berg Quartet begin with a wonderful command of the music but, after a terrific opening, fail to sustain the same level. On the budget Naxos label the Hungarians Jeno Jando and the Kodaly Quartet have everything well under control but lack an emotional knockout punch.

The Allegri Quartet makes a rich and multi-layered sound with outstanding solo contributions from each of the quartet members while their pianist, Rian de Waal, is more restrained. Maurizio Pollini and the Quartetto Italiano would probably be the choice of the intellectual. Their vision is consistently bleak, finding the dark side to Brahms's romantic soul.

But **Christoph Eschenbach** and the **Amadeus Quartet** on Deutsche Grammophon's budget Classikon collection (DG 439 490-2, £6.99) are more human: relaxed and effusive in the lyrical parts of the work, but every bit as ruthless in the dramatic.

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498: e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk

Next Saturday on Radio 3 (11am): Mozart's Piano Concerto No 21

■ LISTINGS

Welsh voices in London

ARTS

■ DANCE

Shopping centre steps

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

THE PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE: Richard Dreyfuss and Marsha Mason make their British stage debuts in Neil Simon's play about big city angst.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket (0171-930 8800). Opens tonight, 7pm.

PETER GRIMES: Welsh National Opera visits London with its two most recent productions, kicking off with Peter Stein's atmospheric version of Britten's masterpiece, energetically conducted by Carlo Rizzi (tonight and Sat). John Daszak sings the title role. Humperdinck's Hansel and Gretel follows (tomorrow and Thur).
Sadler's Wells (0171-863 8000). Performance times, 7.30pm.

MARIA JOAO PIRES: A solo recital by the Portuguese pianist offers a selection of music designed to reflect her brilliant technique and sensitive interpretations. The programme includes pieces by Debussy, Beethoven and Chopin.
Barbican (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm.

CHARLIE'S ANGEL: A musical comedy by Jonathan Markwood and Helen Goldwyn, who also star as Charlie and one of his two girlfriends.
Grace (0171-794 0022). Previews tonight, 8pm. Opens tomorrow, 8pm.

ELSEWHERE

BRIGHTON: Neil Bartlett directs The Dispute, Marivaux's cold-hearted drama in which four children isolated since birth are brought together to see what happens.
Theatre Royal (01273 328488). Opens tonight, 8pm.

GLASGOW: Scottish Opera's acclaimed production of La bohème returns to the spring repertoire. Tom Smith directs Puccini's emotive tale, with Francesca Pedaci and John Hudson in the roles of the tragic lovers. Guido Ajmone-Marsan conducts the opening performance.
Theatre Royal (0141-332 9000). Opens tonight, 7.15pm.



Wayne Marshall plays Poulenc in Manchester

MANCHESTER: The BBC Philharmonic is joined by organist Wayne Marshall and the choral group The Sixteen under Harry Christophers for a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Poulenc. The composer's Organ Concerto and his choral work Sept repons are framed by two works by his compatriot Fauré.
Bridgewater Hall (0161-907 9000). Tonight, 7.30pm.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

◪ **GOOD:** C.P.Taylor's best play, tracing a liberal professor's gradual descent into working with the Nazis. Charles Dance heads a strong cast. Michael Grandage directs.
Donmar (0171-369 1732).

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE: Adrian Noble's spectacular production of the first Narnia adventure comes to town.
Barbican (0171-638 8891).

□ **GROSS INDECENCY:** The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde: Michael Pennington plays Wilde, with William Hoyland and Clive Francis as counsel for and against, in Moises Kaufman's play.
Gielgud (0171-494 5065).

□ **A LOVELY SUNDAY FOR CREVE COEUR:** Late Tennessee Williams play where four thirtysomething women do and don't want to go for a lakeside picnic. Jenny Sealey directs for Graeae Theatre.
Drill Hall (0171-637 8270).

□ **GOB:** Jason Orange (ex-Take That) and Tom Hayes, with Spike as DJ, in Jim Kenworth's punk-rave-anarchistic attack on high culture. James Martin Charlton directs for Friendly Fire.
King's Head (0171-226 1916).

□ **ANIMAL CRACKERS:** Ben Keaton, Joe Alessi and Toby Sedgwick play the three maniacs in a stage version of the Marx Brothers movie. For addicts only.
Lyric (0171-494 5045).

□ **MACBETH:** Rufus Sewell and Sally Dexter play the superstitious thane and his missis in John Crowley's production.
Queens, W1 (0171-494 5041).

□ **DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN:** Mark Little makes his West End acting debut in Rob Becker's new comedy, tracing the origins of the man/woman difference back to the caves.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1 (0171-494 5070).

□ **ENEMIES:** Isaac Bashevis Singer's story of a Holocaust survivor in New York, troubled by women past and present.
Young Vic Studio (0171-928 6363).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

GODS AND MONSTERS (15): Ian McKellen excels as a legendary horror movie director who grooms his gardener (Brendan Fraser) for a role far darker than that of over-muscled escort. Bill Condon directs this flawed but absorbing tale.

AMERICAN HISTORY X (18): Edward Norton is ferociously compelling as a white supremacist skinhead in Tony Kaye's lavish, controversial but doomed attempt to get under the skin of an American tragedy.

PAYBACK (18): Mel Gibson blasts his way through Brian Helgeland's chunky, sadistic thriller. The film luxuriates in its 1970s anachronisms and smooth-talking villains. With James Coburn, and Kris Kristofferson.

THE RUGRATS MOVIE (U): Painless, big cartoon adventure from Nickelodeon in which farting toddlers bond in a spooky forest. Witty enough for adults, an unavoidable necessity for three to eight-year-olds.

MIGHTY JOE YOUNG (PG): A gigantic, emotional gorilla goes mad in LA. Ron Underwood's film is a triumph of special effects over dismal stereotypes such as the shapely Charlize Theron.

LA PROMESSE (ICA): Enthralling Belgian gem about illegal immigrants by Luc and Jean-Pierre Dardenne. Pin-sharp performances from Jérémie Renier and Olivier Gourmet as his Fagin-like father.

AN AUTUMN TALE (U): Eric Rohmer's slight, tedious film about a middle-aged wine grower (Beatrice Romand) artfully twiddles its thumbs but offers no real incentive to detain you.

CURRENT

ARLINGTON ROAD (15): Nerve-shredding thriller with a magnificent performance by Jeff Bridges as a paranoid professor who thinks his neighbour, Tim Robbins, is hatching a terrorist conspiracy.

WAKING NED (PG): It's *Lottery Galore!* for a small village in this slushy Irish fable about a corpse in charge of a winning lottery ticket. With Ian Bannen and David Kelly. Kirk Jones directs

SEUL CONTRE TOUS (I STAND ALONE) (18): Brutal, stomach-churning voyage through a French butcher's life. Philippe Nahon puts in a monumental performance in Gaspar Noe's ghastly, nihilistic experiment.

Clean fun and dirty talk



THEATRE

Card Boys
Bush, W12

If, on the way to Shepherds Bush, I had found my route blocked by a foul old drunkard, effing and blinding at the world, my instincts would have taken me hurriedly past and all my dainty nerves would have twitched at the horrid follies of the world. But having reached the Bush Theatre, and taken a seat on its first and foremost level, I found myself inches away from the character of Teddy, a foul old drunkard, whose every sentence contained one sexual obscenity while most crammed in another couple as adverbial supplements. Along with my colleagues and the rest of the audience I smiled and laughed and shook with enjoyment at this demonstration of man's verbal resourcelessness.

There is a paradox here, which Aristotle would probably resolve, along the lines of dramatic artifice, contained menace and the like. Suffice it to say that the author, Mike Packer, puts Teddy's obscenities to witty use when, at certain points in the play, a sentence emerges from him as virginally clean as anything a saint might utter.

Packer's world is peopled by prostitutes and the men they pay to deface public telephone boxes with their nasty advertisement cards. One of these pests, who has chosen to call himself Plato, becomes disenchanted with urban life and takes himself off to darkest Suffolk with the pregnant Kath, his former employer, to make their fortune growing marijuana in a remote cottage.

The contrast between city and country is fertile soil for Plato's daft notions — "Breathe in. Be with the tree." But Packer is not in this business just to make easy jokes. Plato's various predicaments, and they come piling in upon him, point to the inadequacy of mere sex to satisfy human needs. What about love? And a sloughing-off of pretension? Finally, coarse talk too proves inadequate when trying to explore the depths of an argument.

The core of the play is the sequence of scenes between Plato (Albie Woodington, sometimes suggesting a bearded John Cleese on speed) and Willie Ross's lovingly detailed Teddy, an unquenchable wreck whose hands and feet nurse ambitions for separate lives of their own. Packer's dramatic skill shows itself in the neat way he concludes Plato's attempt to lure Teddy out to the country. Every argument fails until Teddy, quite simply, changes his mind. This is lifelike, precise and satisfying.

The play may be making some further point about man/woman relations when Kath (Suzan Sylvester) reveals that male marijuana plants must be grown apart from the females to have any commercial value. The final moments suggest that Plato, now reverting to his true name, is acknowledging this awkward fact. Simon Usher's direction of his cast of six is shrewd and spirited, allowing no dull moment in which one might count the beer cans — 392 of them, we are told.

JEREMY KINGSTON



MARILYN KINGWILL

Suzan Sylvester (Kath) and Albie Woodington (Plato) in Mike Packer's *Card Boys*

All the old fusion fire rekindled

JAZZ

Nucleus
Wavendon

The longest-lived and most influential jazz-rock fusion band in Britain are Ian Carr's Nucleus, founded in 1969 and finally wound up in 1992. Except not quite finally. Thirty years after recording their first album, *Elastic Rock*, the band are back on the road for a Contemporary Music Network tour.

The impact of that album, from the psychedelic pattern of its label to the slow-burning funk grooves that offset Carr's crystalline trumpet and flugelhorn lines, was dramatic, introducing a home-grown brand of jazz rock to the generation who trooped to hear Miles Davis at the Isle of Wight the following summer. Carr's music, like that of Davis from the same period, depends on building up a head of steam, adding more and more energy and complexity behind each soloist, then falling back as the next player enters, and building up again, each number tending to collapse exhausted after a series of multiple climaxes.

How would it have stood the test of time? Was the evening going to be a series of played-out clichés?

Carr put down such concerns emphatically on the very first number, *Torrid Zone*, from his debut album. After the understated theme of the head arrangement from Carr and saxophonist Phil Todd, bass and drums picked up the pace and the band settled into its familiar swagger. In particular this was due to the aggressive drumming of John Marshall, dictating the dynamics and anchoring the ebb and flow of the performance. Guitarist Mark Wood lacked the authentic anarchy of his predecessor, Chris Spedding, but his effects-pedal worked overtime in adding a layer of commentary to each piece.

For the second half, the band was augmented by the majority of the original line-up from Neil Ardley's 1974 extended suite *Kaleidoscope of Rainbows*. Built round a Balinese five-note scale, it was hailed at the time as Ardley's most impressive combination of structured composition and space for improvisation. Again, the fear was that coming from the era of *Tubular Bells* a little Balinese background would go a long way, but that would be to reckon without Ardley's subtlety as a writer, and the effectiveness of his soloists. The textures of the woodwind writing, notably for alto flute, clarinet, bass clarinet and soprano sax, were glorious in themselves, but after some gritty tenor from Art Themen all the original fire of the piece was rekindled in the final *Rainbows Six and Seven* as Tony Coe's quicksilver clarinet and Barbara Thompson's forthright alto coaxed the rhythm section into one final and ecstatic climax.

ALYN SHIPTON

Shop till you drop

It was business as usual at the Peacocks shopping centre in Woking last Thursday lunchtime until, not quite out of the blue, the Bubbleheads arrived.

Some of us, clued in ahead of time, were already clustered at the railings of the Peacocks' four-level atrium, awaiting their arrival. Karen Carpenter's diabolically chirpy, syrupy *Sing a Song* kept looping round the Peacocks' sound system for our benefit. Meanwhile the Bubbleheads — 23 matching pairs of greasers, ravers, hipsters, rubes, derelict nurses, grunge-punks and more — were umbilically connected via Walkmans, enabling each duo to march, jog, girate or gesture to their own kind of music.

This was the set-up for choreographer Lea Anderson's mildly subversive, underfocused investigation of the physical patterns of consumer interaction. Woking Dance Umbrella, which finished on Saturday, commissioned her to recruit and train a batch of locals to infiltrate the Peacocks four times in three days.

DANCE

The Bubbleheads
Woking

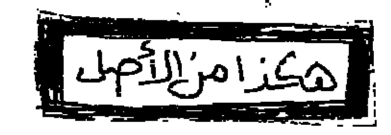
Anderson dubbed her charges "bubbleheads", a reference to the way a shopping mall functions as a kind of microcosmic bubble for its temporary inhabitants.

Anderson, the director of the quirky hers'n'his dance groups the Cholmondeleys and the Featherstonehaughs, was using the Peacocks' antiseptic playground atmosphere to ask a few low-key questions. Why do certain people stand out? Through what they wear (the Bubbleheads sported bright colours, clashing patterns and wild hairstyles) and the way they behave (their moves were bigger, faster and just plain more noticeable than those of regular shoppers).

After riding up and down the mall's escalators and jamming into one of the glass lifts, the Bubbleheads spent most of their time wandering among real-life shoppers and pram-pushers. Exchanges between the two groups were subtle and sporadic. "Let me out of here!" a lad shrieked to his mate as two Bubblehead clubbers grooved past.

After 40 minutes Carpenter's song faded, and the Peacocks reverted to bland, routine rhythms. But wait. Those two women linking arms on the escalator, or that brace of identically dressed security guards, aren't they . . . Sorry, no. The Bubbleheads have left the building.

DONALD HUTERA



LAW



REX

The Birmingham Six, above, with Chris Mullin, MP; their case was a high-profile miscarriage of justice that rocked the legal world

Why the wheels of justice grind so slowly

It is two years since the Criminal Cases Review Commission was set up — but how effective has it been, asks **Bob Woffinden**

James Hanratty was hanged 37 years ago for the notorious A6 murder. Yesterday his case — one of the longest running alleged miscarriages of justice — was referred by the Criminal Cases Review Commission back to the Court of Appeal for a second look. The referral is a victory for his solicitor, Geoffrey Bindman, who has campaigned over 20 years for the case to be reopened. It is also a timely decision by the commission itself as it celebrates its second birthday.

The commission, set up after a series of miscarriages of justice had rocked the system, has always insisted that its performance can best be judged after two years. It began work on April 1, 1997. How successful has it been?

The purpose of the commission was to take over from the Home Office the handling of alleged wrongful convictions. It has received 2,325 submissions. Of these, 100 have now been given the thumbs-down; and it has has referred the convictions of 36 men — including another posthumous case, that of Derek Bentley — and two women to the appeal court.

Many cases have been rejected because they do not meet the appropriate criteria (generally, because they have not exhausted the appeal process). More than 1,000 are still under consideration. These figures encapsulate the story so far, a mixed one of success and continuing problems. On the one hand, 38 referrals of serious criminal cases in two years compares extremely well with what the Home Office managed when the re-evaluation of cases was still its responsibility. On the other, there is a lengthy wait for applicants who are now told not to expect work on their cases to start for two years.

It was originally assumed that there would be an overwhelming number of applicants at the outset, but that once the accumulated backlog of cases had been dealt with, applications would settle to a manageable level.

> 'Prisoners who were palpably guilty took their cases to review'

What the commission did not anticipate was that applications would go on running at a high level — although it now claims to detect some seasonal variation. Some suggest that the volume of cases was inevitable. Prisoners with nothing to lose would put their cases forward. Even Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, appeared to share this view when he commented to the Home Affairs Select Committee that prisoners took cases to the commission "even though they're palpably guilty".

But, of cases examined by the commission, a substantial number (43 of 143) have been successful (five having been referred to appeal on grounds of sentence). Many prisoners will need their cases to be properly prepared by solicitors or legal advisers who will have to work pro bono, at least until the case goes to appeal. The Home Secretary approved 30 per cent extra funds for the commission in January.

Traditionally, there were three areas of concern about miscarriages of justice. Why did they first occur? Why did the Court of Appeal so often fail to rectify them? And why was the Home Office so reluctant to refer contentious cases back to appeal?

The creation of the commission looked at just the last of these, although in practice it may also have had an impact on the second. Of the commission-referred cases which have so far been heard at appeal, all but two have been successful, suggesting some deference on the part of the Court of Appeal to the commission's exhaustive work. By contrast, three of the last cases referred to appeal by the Home Secretary were turned down at appeal.

Graham Walker, convicted of indecent assault and rape charges, is the first serving prisoner to win his case at the commission and lose at appeal. The list of commission rejections includes three particularly controversial cases: Winston Silcott, Tony Dickinson and Paul Cleeland. In both the Dickinson and the Cleeland cases, lawyers are seeking judicial reviews of the commission's decision.

One so far unacknowledged difficulty is that the commission's mere existence may be helping to create miscarriages. Juries may come to believe it is better to err on the side of the prosecution and the commission will correct them if wrong. And the essential difficulty remains: however valuable the commission, nothing has been done to stop miscarriages occurring in the first place. Indeed, many may argue that changes in the mid-Nineties, such as disclosure provisions, make them more likely. If the Government wants to tackle this problem properly, and save substantial public funds, then the commission is where it must focus.

E-mail: lawpage@the-times.co.uk

How Canada can help choose judges

The judicial appointment system reformers should look abroad, says **Neil Addison**

Now that the House of Lords has finally issued its ruling on the extradition of General Augusto Pinochet, attention will return to the judicial shambles surrounding the "Hoffmann affair". Examining how judges are appointed and disciplined is timely, given the impending reform of the House of Lords as a legislative body and the impending incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into UK law.

It is unlikely that the present situation is compatible with Article 6 of the Convention. At present the law lords are members of the legislature, and a government minister, the Lord Chancellor, can remove circuit judges, recorders and magistrates.

Most debates on reform of the current system seem to have focused on the United States, where federal judges have to be approved by the Senate. It may, however, be more appropriate to look to Canada rather than the US for an example to adopt. The Canadian political system is almost identical to that of Britain, even having an unelected second chamber of Parliament. The courts system is similar, too. At the head is the Supreme Court of Canada, and each province has a Court of Appeal, a High Court (often called the Court of Queen's Bench) and a Provincial Trials Court, with both civil and criminal jurisdiction. At both the provincial and federal levels, the Attorney-General is the Minister of Justice and combines functions which in England are spread among the Home Secretary, Attorney-General and Lord Chancellor.

> Judges would receive guidance on conflict of interest

In 1982 Canada incorporated into its Constitution a Charter of Rights and Fundamental Freedoms Section 11(d), which copies the European Convention requirement for "an independent and impartial tribunal". After the charter was enacted several judges in Ontario accepted submissions from defence lawyers that they were disqualified from hearing cases because judges in Ontario were not independent, as required by the charter. This lack of independence was based on the fact that the Ontario judiciary was appointed and paid for by the provincial Attorney-General, who was a government minister. In the case of *R v Valente (No 2) [1985] 2 S.C.R. 673* the Supreme Court held that judges in Canada were independent, in part, because of the way in which they are appointed and disciplined.

How does it work? Judges are appointed by the federal or provincial Attorney-General but only after they have been recommended for appointment by a Judicial Appointments Committee. There are a number of such committees across the country, comprising representatives of the legal profession, the judiciary and lay members. The criteria that committees follow allow them to consider not merely experience as an advocate, but also "non-mainstream legal experience" and "politeness and tact".

After interview and assessment candidates are graded as "recommended", "highly recommended" and "not recommended". Having been presented with the committee's recommendations, the minister is able to choose from it or may ask the committee to rethink things. There are no quotas for appointment of women or minorities to the judiciary, but 41 per cent of judges appointed in Ontario between 1989 to 1992 were women.

Another unique feature is the judicial councils that have been established by statute at both federal and provincial level. These consist of the Chief Justice and other senior judges acting as a corporate body. Where a complaint is made against a judge, it may be referred to the appropriate judicial council, which will arrange for it to be investigated. The council may suspend the judge while the complaint is being investigated and may issue a reprimand or recommend dismissal. The accused judge is entitled to a proper hearing before any recommendation is made for his removal. Judicial councils lay down general guidelines on acceptable judicial behaviour.

Britain should establish a judicial council based on the Canadian model. Consisting of the Lord Chief Justice, Master of the Rolls, two circuit judges, two lay magistrates and three others appointed by the Lord Chancellor, it could take over the Lord Chancellor's disciplinary functions. The council would also be responsible for providing guidance to judges on such issues as conflict of interest. It would, after all, be foolish to ignore this issue and wait until the Human Rights Act 1998 comes into force and makes 90 per cent of the judiciary legally invalid.

● *The author is a barrister in Cathedral Chambers, Newcastle upon Tyne.*

DIARY

ADREW DISMORE, th solicitor MP, is at it agin. First QCs — now juges. He has tabled anther early day motion wch has been signed by me than 100 MPs, urgin the modernisation of thudiciary. It calls for a trasparent system of judges through a Jucial Appointment Commission, a regist of interests — both pecuniary and nopecuniary — for all judges, and more spealist judges to be allocated to complespecialist trials.

☐ HE Woolf industry is taking off. The Colge of Law, with One Essex Court Chbers, is launching an Internet site givg training and information on the refors which take effect on April 26. (ww.woolf.co.uk). The site will include a freepdate on the rules and procedures anda link to the Lord Chancellor's Deprtment website. Peter Reekie, head of e college computer teaching unit, boas it is a first. Meanwhile, Weightmans, the Liverpool law firm, has launched a Woolf website (www.weightmans.com) and chambers at 2 Temple Gardens are holding another seminar (the last four were sold out) with Sweet & Maxwell on the Woolf bible, the new *White Book*.

Finally, Wilberforce Chambers has come up with the ultimate "must have" Woolf accessory — a computer mousemat to go with their new guide to the rules. The guide (£25) is in law bookshops.

☐ LEGAL headhunter Sally Horrox, director of ZMB, is taking a rather different sabbatical from the norm: she will manage the England Netball Team for the 1999 World Championships.

☐ THE Cabinet enforcer Jack Cunningham, Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, and Piers Morgan, Editor of *The Mirror* will be at the Inns of Court School of Law to take part in an episode of BBC Radio 4's *Any Questions* on April 23.

☐ NOISY neighbours? Holidays from hell? Go online with *Which?* Its new website (free sampling on www.which.net/legal) gives answers to the 401 most common legal problems. *Which?* subscribers have full access — and can use *Which?* lawyers for their own case.

☐ LINCOLN'S INN is creating an annual award in honour of the late Peter Duffy, QC. The award will mark his contribution to European law and human rights as well as concern for Inn students.

☐ WHY does New Jersey have the most toxic waste and California the most lawyers? Because New Jersey had first choice. Anthony Julius, lawyer to the Duchess of York, told the joke as he gave the Essex Law Lecture held by the Suffolk and North Essex law societies with Essex University's law school. Such jokes, Julius argued, were "mini-novels" which reveal the low esteem in which novelists hold lawyers. US writers hate lawyers and respect the law — in the UK, the satire is at the expense of the legal system.



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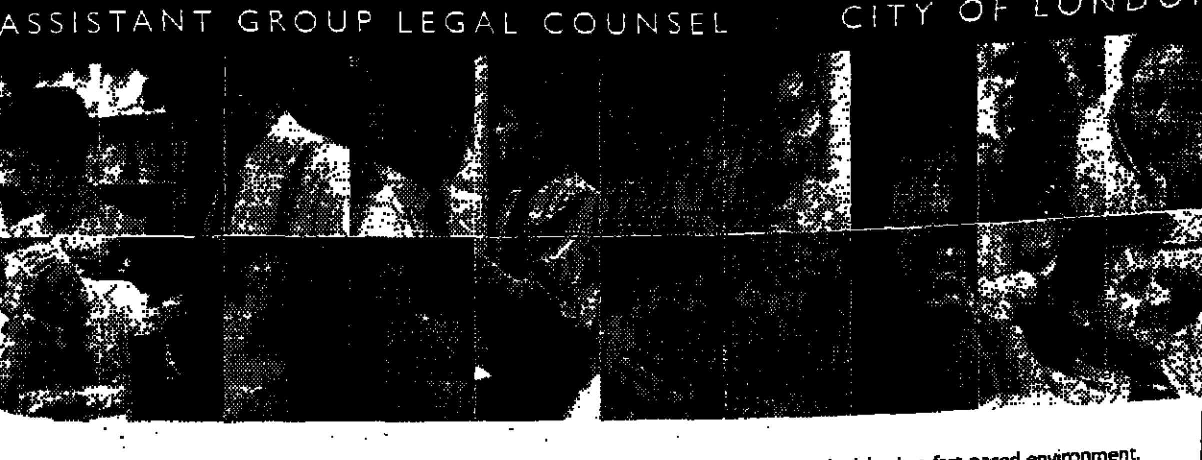
Tel: +44 0171 283 6000 Fax: +44 0171 283 6500 Email: rodwellc@nortonrose.com

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IN-HOUSE

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Sole lawyer — *Thames Valley*

Successful international software company seeks to recruit a solicitor or barrister with approx 3-4 years' experience some of which ideally should have been gained in-house. The role requires a proactive, hardworking commercial lawyer with strong communication skills and sound commercial sense. Prior experience of working in Europe, of the IT sector and software agreements would be useful as would a second European language. An excellent salary and benefits package will be offered.

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LONDON/OVERSEAS

Property prof support — City

Top ten City firm with one of the largest property depts in UK seeks property solr with at least 10 yrs' pqe to head team of 3 in the training, mktg & know-how upkeep for the firm. Regular working hours and excellent salaries.

Projects — *US firm*

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Family partner — City

Med-sized practice with strong private client and family dept seeks a senior solicitor, with City expce. to advise high net worth clients on family and matrimonial matters. Expce of high value ancillaries, shares, pension funds, etc, is required.

Employment — *US firm*

Top ten US firm, long established in London (not a high-risk start up), seeks 3-7 yrs pqe solicitor for mainly non-contentious caseload advising both UK and US companies on termination, redundancies and transactions.

David Woolfson, Paul Thomas, Emma Ridley
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Self-estimation

The interview was going well. The candidate had proved they knew their way around a shareholders' agreement within the first ten minutes. They explained why they were on the market and the interviewers seemed happy with the explanation. The interviewers' body language became more animated and they had even begun to smile.

Then the candidate was asked the seemingly straighforward question: "Who do you regard as our direct competitors?"

This corporate assistant solicitor was being interviewed by a leading commercial practice in the North West. In answer, the candidate quoted the names most would give as being in the same league. Wrong answer. The interviewer suddenly stiffened and the smile was gone. "We regard X, Y and Z as our direct competitors," he said. X, Y and Z happened to be three top international firms, five times the size of the interviewing firm. This actually happened, though it was an extreme example.

Firms which are doing well are proud of their success. Their perception of themselves may differ from yours. If you're asked this question, and you want the job, err on the side of quoting better firms.

David Woolfson

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IN-HOUSE & OVERSEAS

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▶ Corporate/Finance/Cap Mkts — Frankfurt/Singapore/Tokyo
We currently have instructions from a number of major international practices for openings in the above areas. You should have between 1 and 5 years' post qualification experience and if you are interested in finding out more about the opportunities on offer, please contact Sean Mulherin. **Ref: 3794**

▶ Regulatory Affairs Counsel — London
This fast growing international telecommunications company is seeking a 3 or more year qualified lawyer, either with telecoms regulatory or EC competition law experience to deal with a variety of matters including handling interconnect agreements and to be responsible for monitoring regulatory developments in the UK and Ireland. Please contact Rachael North. **Ref: 4164**

▶ Banking/Finance Lawyer – 5 Years+ PQE — Bermuda
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▶ IP/Trade Marks in Sports — London
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▶ *Patents* — *To £90k package* — *London*
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▶ Company/Commercial — Dorse
A new position has arisen with this company for a dynam lawyer with a minimum of 2 years experience to join th established legal team handling a range of company commercial and financial services work. Please conta Laurence Simons personally or Naveen Tuli. **Ref: 414**

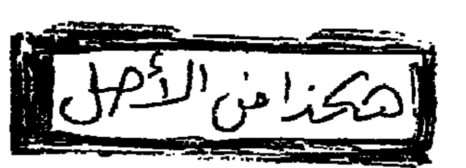
▶ European Role — Londc
Our client provides information technology services and businc solutions to a broad range of clients worldwide. The company see an additional senior lawyer, 5 to 10 years qualified, with IT/IP a general commercial experience, to provide commercial and le advice to senior management for all European aspects of t company's business. The position reports into the Group Gene Counsel in the US. Please contact Rachael North. **Ref: 41**

▶ French M&A Lawyer — Paris or Luxembou
This $20+ billion US multinational has a requirement for a hi calibre French lawyer with extensive M&A experience to assu a new role based in either Paris or Luxembourg. Ideally you sl be French qualified although candidates qualified elsewhere wi experience of living and working in Paris will be considered. Ts is a hands-on role that will require a flexible and adapta approach and involve interaction at the most senior levels bo internally and externally. Contact Naveen Tuli. **Ref: 42**



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Sex and abuse of trust

A new law criminalises intimacy if professionalism is violated, says **Gary Slapper**

Sex and criminal law are not good partners. But the Government is in the process of enacting new law that would make a criminal sex offender of, say, a sixth-form college teacher who had an affair with one of his or her 17-year-old students. It would be a crime, even though the relationship would be between two consenting adults.

How far should the criminal law reach into people's sexual relations? In the past such law has taken a narrow-minded, unindulgent attitude to sexual relations, so much so that we are now in the process of liberalising many laws, not making them more intolerant. The Government is, for instance, just taking through Parliament the new law reducing the minimum age of certain homosexual conduct. This will equalise the age of consent for homosexuals, lesbians and heterosexuals — 16 in Great Britain, 17 in Northern Ireland.

Yet the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, now in the Lords, which liberalises the age of consent, also contains the remarkably draconian measure that would criminalise the student/lecturer love affair. Such an affair might well be an immoral outrage, but criminalising it as a sex crime is a different matter.

Where such a relationship is formed, the policy of the employer could ensure that the conduct was a serious disciplinary matter. All that, however, seems insufficient for the Government, which is now apparently intent on bringing such conduct into the same category as paedophilia and rape, and requiring a convicted person to register as a sex offender under the Sex Offenders Act 1997.

The new criminal law clampdown on people who abuse positions of trust to begin sexual relationships seems mainly to have been prompted by cases in which the younger party was mentally or socially vulnerable. The clause bringing those aged 16 and 17 in full-time education into the same frame of protection is, arguably, an overreaction.

The Bill introduces a new offence whereby a person aged 18 or over has sexual intercourse or engages in "any other sexual activity with or directed towards a person under that age" if the person over 18 is in a position of trust in relation to the younger person.

> A breach of care makes an offence of under-age sex worse

The phrase "position of trust" is given specific meaning in the draft law.

Most of the scenarios presented are uncontroversial. They include instances where the younger person has been detained under a court order in an institution under the Mental Health Acts, and where he or she is in local authority care or foster care.

Perhaps as a result of the definitional problems experienced by President Clinton with the concept of sex, the new law is fairly all-embracing. The test as to determine if conduct amounts to "sexual activity" is whether a reasonable person would, in the circumstances, regard the activity as sexual. Behaviour that a reasonable person would regard as sexual activity only if he were aware of a person's intentions, motives or feelings is specifically excluded. Thus, behaviour that is non-sexual in nature — for example, a sports trainer tackling a pupil on a rugby pitch — may not be challenged because of alleged hidden motives.

The criminal law has always been quick to act where people in positions of trust have had sexual relations with those in their care who are deemed by the law as being too young to consent to sex, or whose vulnerability has been exploited. Even where the relationship is consensual the law will understandably punish under-age sex. At the end of last year Sarah Hubert, a 25-year-old Scout mistress who had an affair with a 14-year-old Scout, was convicted of indecent assault and placed on probation for two years.

Consensual sex above the age of consent in which one party is violating a position of trust is more problematic. Four years ago a married teacher left her husband, home and career to run off with a 16-year-old pupil at her school in Bristol. The oddity of the relationship between Edwina Shore, 42, and Jason Maddox, 16, was accentuated by the fact that the teacher's eldest daughter was only two years younger than Jason. Since then Edwina and Jason have had a son, now two years old. Ms Shore, who would be courting a prison sentence had the new law been in force at the time of her affair, has spoken out against the proposal: "I do not believe that a prison term would have ended our relationship. What right has the Government to say what is right and wrong?"

The suppression of immorality is not the business of the criminal law. Unless we are to succumb to the watchful gaze of a Big Brother, we shall always have bizarre people in our midst.

We do not need to put them in positions of trust, but, equally, we do not need to put them in jail.

● *Dr Slapper is the director of the law programme at the Open University.*

BRUCE ADAMS



Scoutmistress Sarah Hubert was convicted of indecent assault and placed on probation

Sponsorship and the big picture

More firms are funding arts events for altruistic reasons, says **Edward Fennell**

Lawyers are usually camera-shy, so it is no surprise that not one appears in the Terence Donovan photographic exhibition that opened at the Museum of London last week. Even so, lawyers played a key role in mounting the show with Denton Hall, the City solicitors, spending £50,000 to back the event.

Elizabeth Rantzen, the head of business development, says: "After a non-merger last year the firm was in a strategic vacuum. Traditionally, our marketing has focused on individual departments, but we wanted to create an event that would bring the firm together. The Donovan exhibition seemed an ideal way of doing that."

Denton Hall has not just written a cheque to get its name on the poster. During the course of the exhibition it will host about 25 receptions for clients and staff as a way of presenting itself afresh to the world and boosting morale. Chris Crowcroft, the consultant in arts business sponsorship who advised Denton Hall, says: "An exhibition creates excellent opportunities for meeting clients and talking to them in a stimulating environment."

DONOVAN

Donovan: relevant to Sixties aficionados

This arts sponsorship is a first for Denton Hall, and the firm took great care analysing both the potential business opportunities and what kind of event to select.

Ms Rantzen says: "The decision to go for the Donovan photography was based on the view that his work was very accessible and was set mostly in the Sixties, an era with which our partners and clients would identify."

Important though the Donovan exhibition is, it cannot match the scale of Ernst & Young's Monet exhibition at the Royal Academy. This is the fourth in a series of blockbuster events the accountants have supported — the others include Bonnard, Cézanne and Picasso. During the course of the Monet season Ernst & Young will host about 50 events, again largely for corporate guests and clients.

The consistency of Ernst & Young's arts strategy has been essential to its success. Mr Crowcroft says: "The decision needs to be long-term so that it will be sustained by the firm no matter who is in the key position. It also needs to be clear in its purpose."

By contrast with the accountants, lawyers' use of arts sponsorship is sporadic. While they may make annual donations to orchestras and theatre companies, it is still rare to make the investment necessary for a named event. An exception is the medium-sized firm Collyer-Bristow, based in Bedford Row, which has turned its reception area into an art gallery where exhibitions are held regularly. A curator selects and plans the exhibitions in consultation with half a dozen key partners.

Michael Drake, a partner, says the time and trouble have paid off in terms of the opportunities for meeting new clients and renewing relationships with long-term clients. The gallery also holds themed events — later this year, for example, there will be an exhibition of sports photography. There is a view that arts sponsorship should be used simply as a way of contributing to the community as an act of genuine altruism. Taylor Joynson Garrett has an excellent collection of modern art in its futuristic building overlooking the Thames on Victoria Embankment. Clifford Chance undertook legal work for the new Sadler's Wells on a pro bono basis and plays host in its vast atrium to the London Musici orchestra. The Poet in the City initiative was launched there recently by, among others, Wendy Cope.

"The firm's involvement in art activities does not have a marketing purpose as such," says Keith Clark, a senior partner. "We certainly have a large marketing budget, but we tend to spend it where the outcomes are measurable. I am not entirely sure that you can do that with the arts."

Magdalen Roberts, the development manager for the Museum of London, was pleased by the backing from Denton Hall. She is now looking for a sponsor for the *London Eats Out: 500 Years of Eating Out in London* exhibition, designed by Sir Terence Conran. Any firms fancy that?

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International City practice seeks 2-6 years' qualified property litigator. Must have relevant up to date experience. Immediate start for 3 month contract whilst looking permanently. Ref: 62028

PROPERTY KNOW-HOW
Major international law firm requires know how officer for 9 month maternity leave cover. 2+ years' up to date commercial property experience essential. Role includes research and up-dating precedent systems. Ref: 61857

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COMMERCIAL
Solicitor/barrister 4-5 years' qualified required to cover maternity leave with multi-national media company. Work includes commercial contracts, joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions. Ideal candidate would have in-house experience. To start in June. Ref: 62047

MATRIMONIAL
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City firm seeks a senior corporate tax solicitor to assist with heavy workload in busy department. Ideally the successful candidate will be highly experienced and available immediately. 3 month contract. Ref: 62101

COMMERCIAL/IT
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IT
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3-6 years' qualified insurance litigator required to assist leading US insurance practice in London. Ideal candidate will have established UK reputation. Work will include full range of insurance/reinsurance litigation. Ref: 62137

LITIGATION KNOW-HOW
National firm requires litigation know-how solicitor/barrister for Bristol office. 3 month contract. Position would include managing and assisting fee-earner training throughout whole firm. Would consider applicant with a broad range of litigation experience, and knowledge of Woolf reforms. Ref: 60954

BANKING
Large firm based in southern England requires non-contentious banking solicitor for a 6 month contract to assist banking and insolvency partners working for secured lenders. Ideal candidate would have commercial as well as banking experience. Ref: 62092

CORPORATE
Multi-national law firm urgently require 2+ years' qualified corporate solicitor/barrister for minimum 3 month contract to assist with heavy workload. Broad ranging company /commercial experience essential. Ref: 62169

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For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Emma Anderson or Ced Freeman on 0171-405 6062 (0181 870 5224 or 0171 387 3666 evenings/weekends) or write to us at QD Special Project Lawyer.

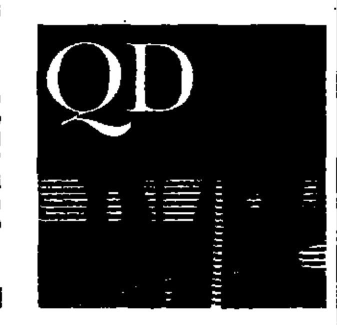
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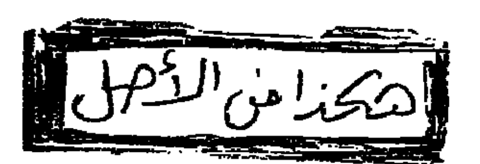
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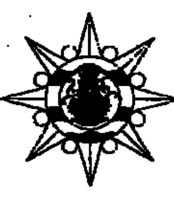
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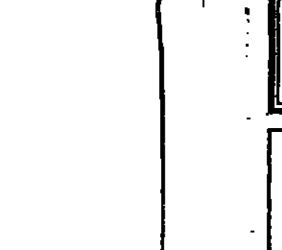
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Law Report March 30 1999 Court of Appeal

Libel trial will not impeach Parliament

Hamilton v Al Fayed

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Laws

[Judgment March 26]

A Member of Parliament, or a former MP, could bring a libel action based *on a publication made* outside Parliament, which contained defamatory imputations concerning the MP's activities and conduct as a member, on which adverse findings had been made by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, which had been subsequently left undisturbed by the Standing Committee on Standards and Privileges, and by the House of Commons itself.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment *dismissing the* appeal of the defendant, Mohamed Al Fayed, against the refusal of Mr Justice Popplewell in the Queen's Bench Division on July 31, 1998 to strike out as an abuse of process the libel action brought by the plaintiff, Mostyn Neil Hamilton. The Attorney-General intervened on behalf of the Speaker and the House of Commons.

Article 9 of the Bill of Rights 1689 provides: "That the freedome of speech and debates or proceedings in Parlyament ought not to be impeached or questioned in any court or place out of Parlyament."

Section 13 of the Defamation Act 1996 *provides*: "(1) Where the conduct of a person in or in relation to proceedings in Parliament is in issue in defamation proceedings, he may waive for the purposes of those proceedings, so far as concerns him, the protection of any enactment or rule of law which prevents proceedings in Parliament being impeached or questioned in any court or place out of Parliament."

Mr George Carman, QC, Mr *James Price, QC and Miss Heather* Rogers for Mr Al Fayed; Mr Desmond Browne, QC and Miss Adrienne Page for Mr Hamilton; Mr Ross Cranston, QC, Solicitor-General and Mr Philip Sales for the Attorney-General.

THE MASTER OF THE *ROLLS, giving the judgment of the* court, said that the appeal had raised issues of great constitutional importance concerning the relationship between the courts and Parliament.

Mr Al Fayed had submitted that to allow the libel action to be heard necessarily involved questioning proceedings in Parliament in contravention of article 9 of the Bill of Rights 1689 and/or would constitute a collateral attack upon *Parliaments own prior investigation* into the conduct of Mr Hamilton while he was an MP.

The facts

Mr Hamilton, who had been an MP until he lost his seat in 1997, had complained of a broadcast made by Mr Al Fayed in the course of a Channel 4 TV documentary *Dispatches* on January 16, 1997, accusing him of seeking and accepting from Mr Al Fayed cash for questions asked by him in the House of Commons.

During 1987 to 1989 Mr Hamilton had made a number of parliamentary interventions, including questions in Mr Al Fayed's interests, and it was *Mr Al Fayed's contention*, flatly denied by Mr Hamilton, that Mr Hamilton had been paid by him for that purpose, and that the initiative for such payments had come from Mr Hamilton.

On October 20, 1994 *The Guardian* had published a front page sto*ry derived from Mr Al Fayed's alle*gations. The article had stated that Mr Al Fayed had paid tens of thousands of pounds to Mr Hamilton and to Mr Tim Smith, MP, through the agency of Ian Greer Associates, in return for asking questions in Parliament on his behalf.

*Mr Hamilton, Ian Greer Associ*ates and Mr Ian Greer had issued proceedings for libel against *The Guardian*. Mr Smith had admitted having received money from Mr Al Fayed and had resigned his ministerial post.

On July 21, 1995 Mr Justice May had *stayed* the actions, holding *that the claims and defences raised* issues whose investigation would *infringe parliamentary privilege* to such an extent that they could not fairly be tried.

Following the enactment of section 13 of the Defamation Act 1996, which had been prompted by the stay of Mr Hamilton's action, Mr Justice May *had lifted the stay*. However, shortly afterwards the claims against *The Guardian* had collapsed.

The Speaker of the House of Commons had then referred the allegations concerning Mr Hamilton to the Standing Committee on Standards and Privileges which had asked *Sir Gordon Downey*, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, to investigate.

On July 1, 1997 the Commission*er's final report* had concluded: "The evidence that Mr Hamilton received cash payments directly from Mr Al Fayed in return for lobbying services is compelling; and I so conclude."

The Committee had issued its report on November 5, 1997. It had stated: "We are satisfied that the *Commissioner has* carried out a thorough inquiry ... The Committee did not arrive at a practicable way of reaching a judgment which *adds to or subtracts from the Commissioner's findings*."

On November 17, 1997 the Committee's report was debated in, and approved by, the House of Commons.

Mr Justice Popplewell's judgment

In considerable measure the result the judge had arrived at [in refusing to stay the present action] had been grounded in his view that the inquisitorial procedure adopted by the Commissioner, and what he regarded as the inadequate appeal procedure, had not afforded to Mr Hamilton a full opportunity to contest what had been alleged against him.

There was, second, the judge's conclusion that the Commissioner's findings as regarded the cash for questions had not been adopted or endorsed by the Committee or the House, and that accordingly there had been no affront to parliamentary privilege.

*Those two aspects of the judg*ment below constituted appropriate starting points for the resolution of two of the major questions canvassed on the appeal.

The first was, *did the principle* in *Hunter v Chief Constable of West Midlands Police* ([1982] AC 529) apply to the facts of the present case?

The second was, did the Commissioner's inquiry, the Committee's report, and the House of Commons approval of it, together or individually, *constitute proceedings* in Parliament for the purposes of article 9 of the Bill of Rights or of any wider principle which might protect such proceedings from direct or indirect judicial interference?

Hunter

The argument was that the libel action constituted a collateral attack on a decision of Parliament upon charges or complaints brought against Mr Hamilton relating to his conduct as an MP. The decision was stated to be the resolution of the House to approve the Committee's report.

The principle enunciated in *Hunter had nothing to do with the* special position of Parliament. It was a general principle, evolved to prevent that kind of abuse of process inherent in the relitigation of an issue already once fairly and fully litigated in a competent court.

It seemed to be a necessary feature of any application of that prin*ciple that the court required to de*cide whether there was an abuse must consider whether the earlier suit had allowed the party now seeking to relitigate the issue a full and fair opportunity to put his case, and meet his opponent's case. The court, therefore, must judge the procedural quality of the earlier proceedings.

But in relation to the procedures adopted in the present case by the Commissioner, the Committee, *and the House of Commons, the ar*gument of Mr Al Fayed, and that of the Solicitor-General, was that such a process was forbidden the court by force of article 9.

That argument was right. The courts had no business passing judgment on the fairness or otherwise of Parliament's internal procedures.

But in that case, the consequence must be that the principle enunciated in *Hunter* had no application to the case. Mr Al Fayed and the House of Commons could not, in the present context, take what might be called the benefit of the *Hunter* principle without shoulder*ing its burden*.

It followed that if the argument as to collateral attack was good, it must be on the footing of some principle quite other than that to be derived from *Hunter*.

Proceedings in Parliament

Their Lordships had concluded that the Commissioner's inquiry *and report, the hearings before the* Committee and its report, as well as the resolution of the House, amounted individually and collectively to proceedings in Parliament whether for the purposes of article 9 or of any wider rule which enjoined the protection of such proceedings.

In *those circumstances it* was not strictly necessary to consider whether the Committee, and the House, had adopted the Commissioner's findings on the issue of cash for questions, since those findings in isolation amounted to proceedings in Parliament.

However, it seemed to their *Lordships that it could at least be* said that the Committee had decided to leave the findings undisturbed.

Could the argument as to collateral attack upon proceedings of the House be founded on any rule or principle of the law aside from *Hunter*? The first possibility was to *be found in article 9 of the Bill of* Rights.

Article 9

It had been contended by Mr Al Fayed that to allow Mr Hamilton's action to proceed would involve questioning proceedings of Parliament and that would contravene article 9.

The Solicitor-General did not so submit: the focus of his concern relating to article 9 had been directed to what he saw as the criticisms which the judge had levelled at the inquiry process.

In their Lordships' judgment, the reach of article 9 went only to prohibit (a) the attachment by the courts of any form of legal penalty to an MP, or, no doubt, any person taking part in proceedings in Parliament, for anything said in Parliament, *and (b)* direct criticism by the courts of anything said or done in the course of parliamentary proceedings.

The vice to which article 9 was directed, so far as the courts were concerned, was the inhibition of freedom of speech and debate in Parliament that might flow from any condemnation by the courts, being themselves an arm of government, of anything there said.

The position was quite different when it came to criticisms by other persons, especially the media, of what was said in Parliament.

The courts could only have legitimate occasion to criticise anything said or done in Parliamentary proceedings if they were called on to pass judgment on any such proceedings: but that they clearly could not and must not do. Nor therefore should they issue such criticisms on any occasion, for to do so would be gratuitous.

In consequence, the judge had been wrong to level any assault on the procedures adopted by the Commissioner.

That conclusion, however, provided no answer to the question whether the action constituted an impermissible collateral attack on proceedings in Parliament. That question had now to be considered *in the context of section 13 of the* Defamation Act 1996.

The libel action did not, or at the least need not involve the imputation of any criticism of the procedures adopted by the Commissioner. As long as the requirement to avoid any such criticism was observed, article 9, properly understood, *did not mean Mr Hamil*ton's proceedings could not be allowed to continue.

A wider rule

A principle of a different dimension to the prohibition contained in article 9 also existed. It was that the courts would not challenge or assault, by any order of their own, an *assertion of authority issued by* Parliament pursuant to Parliament's own procedures.

That principle extended to acts and decisions of Parliament which were not part of the process of enacting primary legislation, such as the acts of the Commissioner, the Committee, and the House of Com*mons in the present case*.

It flowed from the court's recognition of Parliament's constitutional status as sovereign legislator. Once it had identified the subject-matter of a dispute as falling within such process, the court would not proceed.

However, that did not of itself *bar Mr Hamilton's libel action*, which involved no assertion by the court of any power to challenge the exercise of authority by Parliament.

Manifestly the court would never make any order striking down what had been done by Parliament, or attaching legal sanctions or consequences to it. The defamation proceedings created no risk of that.

The most that could be said was that the court might arrive at a different result on some aspects of the factual merits of the cash for questions issue from that arrived at by the Commissioner and, at least, not departed from or objected to be the Committee or the House of Commons.

The approach to that issue must recognise that the courts were being asked to prevent Mr Hamilton from proceeding with perfectly properly constituted proceedings in which he asserted a recognised cause of action in order to seek redress for a wrong he claimed to have suffered by reason of an event happening entirely outside Parliament.

It was important to bear in mind that any extension to the principle preventing Mr Hamilton continuing with his claim would have effect even if there were a raft of new evidence.

As it happened, there were questions in the present case as to the extent of overlap between the subject-matter of the libel action and that of the Commissioner's inquiry; and Mr Hamilton said he had evidence which had not been consid*ered in the parliamentary process*.

The court should only decline to hear Mr Hamilton's libel claim if it were persuaded that the possibility of a result being arrived at which was inconsistent with the Commissioner's conclusions would be to undermine the authority of Parliament so that the action should on that ground be condemned as abusive.

It could not credibly be maintained that such a power ought to be exercised in every single case where litigation covered or overlapped the same ground as had been trodden by an investigation by Parliament into some aspect of *its own affairs*.

If an MP repeated outside Parliament what he had said in Parliament, he could be sued for it. If a parliamentary committee, or either House itself, reached a distinct conclusion as to the merits of a question which did not itself touch Parliament's procedures, the courts in a later claim based on a common law cause of action, arising out of the same facts could arrive at a result wholly at variance with the judgment of Parliament. It was not suggested that those circumstances undermined Parliament's authority.

Accordingly, were the court in *any case to hold that a common* law claim should be struck out as abusive because it risked undermining Parliament's authority, it would do so only upon an appreciation of the cases facts and circumstances.

Their Lordships did not say that there could not be such a case. But there would probably have to be additional features of the case making that appropriate: for example material tending to show that the plaintiff's real purpose was not to vindicate himself in relation to the later publication but to attack the parliamentary process.

On the facts of the present case, it had not been established that Mr Hamilton's claim should be struck out as abusive.

The Solicitor-General had been inclined to accept that of the various financial benefits which Mr Al Fayed had alleged were received by Mr Hamilton, the Commissioner had not investigated some and *had found insufficient evidence on* others.

Mr Hamilton had taken other points to show that there was no full overlap between the libel complained of and the matters investigated in Parliament.

In addition it had not been established that Mr Hamilton entertained any intent to attack *as such* the procedures adopted in Parliament. What he sought was the resolution in court proceedings of his claim that he had been defamed.

For Mr Hamilton to be shut out from asserting that claim would require the clear demonstration of a threat to Parliament's authority. *That had not been shown.*

It involved no reflection on Parliament to say that the courts were better placed to determine the issues which arose here. Parliament itself had only embarked on its investigation when it had become clear that the courts were not doing so.

Section 13 of the 1996 Act

Mr Hamilton's waiver of privilege under section 13 would without question have allowed him to take *The Guardian* action to trial. Why not, then, the action against Mr Al Fayed following the Channel 4 broadcast?

Mr Al Fayed and the Solicitor-*General had said that the interven*ing parliamentary inquiry made all the difference. But their Lordships did not think that that was so.

Section 13(2) in terms allowed evidence, questions, statements, comments and findings to be given, asked or made in relation to the conduct of a person in or in relation to proceedings in Parliament, where that person had waived privilege.

The section made no qualification whatever to inhibit or cancel the effect of subsection (2) where there had been a parliamentary inquiry into the subject-matter in question. To hold that it did would require words to be read into the statute which were not there.

The policy of the section was to allow *such defamation claims* as this to be brought irrespective of the demands of parliamentary privilege.

Solicitors: D. J. Freeman; Crockers Oswald Hickson; Treasury Solicitor.

Hamilton v Al Fayed (No 2)

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Hirst

[Judgment March 26]

In a libel action concerning the alleged payment of money to a Member of Parliament, *the fact that another MP had admitted receiving* payments from the same source was background information that *the jury* could be told about, but it was in no way probative of the allegation with which the action was concerned.

Similarly, any findings made in *parliamentary* proceedings as to the MP's conduct were part of the background information which the jury could be informed of, but they were not probative of the allega*tions against the MP* in the libel action.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the defendant, Mr Mohamed Al Fayed, *against the decision* of Mr Justice Morland in the Queen's Bench Division on November 3, 1998 that, in the libel claim of the plaintiff, Mostyn Neil Hamilton, references *to the actions* of Mr Tim Smith, MP, in the plea of justification in the defence should be struck out.

The appeal was heard immediately after judgment was given in Mr Al Fayed's appeal against the refusal of Mr Justice Popplewell to strike out the action as an abuse of process.

Mr George Carman, QC, Mr *James Price, QC and Miss Heath*er Rogers for Mr Al Fayed; Mr Desmond Browne, QC and Miss Adrienne Page for Mr Hamilton.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said that, on the appeal, Mr Al Fayed had accepted that the fact that payments had been made to Mr Tim Smith was not probative of the allegation that payments had been *made to Mr Hamilton. Therefore*, the judge's decision that such references should be excised from the plea of justification had been correct.

But, very properly, Mr Al Fayed had said that it would be artificial to cut out as a matter of legal ruling all mention of Mr Smith's conduct as a matter of background, *otherwise the jury would not have* a proper picture of the case in the round.

However, it was very important to stress that it would be necessary for the judge to give a very careful and firm direction to the jury that the background evidence so far as Mr Smith was concerned was in no sense probative of the charge that Mr Hamilton had received payments.

On that basis his Lordship did not see any difficulty in the conduct of the action or that mention of Mr Smith as part of the background would contravene article 9 of the Bill of Rights 1689.

It was also inevitable in some way or other that the jury should become aware of the parliamentary proceedings. However, proof of the underlying charges would hinge entirely on the facts and no reliance could be *made* on the parliamentary proceedings as a plea of justification.

The parliamentary proceedings could also not be relied on in miti*gation of any* damages because they post-dated the publication complained of.

The Master of the Rolls agreed.

Solicitors: D. J. Freeman; Crockers Oswald Hickson.

Linked contracts can be treated separately and together

Phillips and Another v Brewin Dolphin Bell Lawrie Ltd and Another

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, *Lord Justice Morritt* and Lord Justice Laws

[Judgment March 17]

Two linked contracts could be treat*ed separately in order to determine* whether one had been discharged by acceptance of a breach going to its root but together for the purpose of assessing whether they amounted to a transaction at an undervalue within section 238 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

However, a contract between company A and company B and a separate, although linked, contract between company A and company C could not constitute the same *transaction for the purposes of sec*tion 238, unless the separation was a sham.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment, dismissing an appeal by the defendants, Brewin Dolphin Bell Lawrie Ltd and its parent company, Private Capital Group Ltd ("PCG"), against the decision of *Mr Justice Evans-Lombe* in the Chancery Division ([1998] 1 BCLC 700) that Brewin Dolphin pay the first plaintiff, Ian Peter Phillips, the liquidator of the second plaintiff stockbrokers, A. J. Bekhor & Co, £1,008,500 following the sale of part of Bekhor's business and some of its assets to Brewin Dolphin at an undervalue.

The sale involved a number of elements:

1 In October 1989 part of Bekhor's business, including the goodwill, was hived down into a wholly owned subsidiary, Bekhor Securities Ltd ("BSL").

22 By a share sale agreement in November 1989 Bekhor sold Brewin Dolphin the issued share capital of BSL for £1.

3 By a lease *agreement of the same* date Bekhor let to PCG for four years at a rent of £312,500 annually the computer equipment used in its business which it leased from two finance companies.

4 By a collateral agreement Bekhor agreed to perform all obligations and pay all sums due under the *computer leases with the finance* companies.

Payments for leasing Bekhor's computer equipment were tax deductible whereas a payment for goodwill would not have been deductible and would, under the rules of the Stock Exchange, have given rise to a matching increase *in the capital adequacy require*ment of Brewin Dolphin.

In January 1990 the finance companies terminated the computer leases granted to Bekhor. In March 1990, PCG claimed to be discharged from further performance of the lease agreement because of Bekhor's failure to perform the computer leases.

Bekhor was compulsorily wound up in April 1990 and the liquidator applied under section 238 of the 1986 Act for a declaration that the share sale agreement was a sale of the shares in BSL at an undervalue and for payment of such sum as might be required to restore the company to the position it would have been in but for that sale.

Mr Gregory Mitchell, QC and Mr Cormac Smith, solicitor, for Brewin Dolphin and PCG; Mr Richard Slade for the liquidator and Bekhor.

LORD JUSTICE MORRITT said that Brewin Dolphin had argued that the share sale agreement and the lease agreement were to be *treated as separate transactions* for the purpose of considering whether the lease agreement had been determined by PCG's acceptance of the company' s repudiation of its obligations thereunder but together for the purpose of assessing the consideration moving to the company on the sale of the shares in BSL.

The judge had expressed the view that it was not open to Brewin Dolphin to put forward those two contentions simultaneously.

If the payments made under the lease agreement were, in truth, part of the consideration for the purchase of the BSL shares under the share purchase agreement, then the lease agreement was not to be treated as a contract for the hire of goods and failure to ensure that PCG would be in a position to enjoy possession of the leased equipment would not be a breach going to the root of the share acquisition agreement nor would it constitute a repudiation of that agreement.

The judge had supported that conclusion by reference to *Total Oil Great Britain Ltd v Thompson Garages (Biggin Hill) Ltd* ([1972] 1 QB 318) and *Tinker v Tinker* ([1970] P 136).

The judge had concluded that it *had been PCG's intention to set off* the payments that they were to make against profits for the purposes of corporation tax. That could *only be done on the basis* that the payments were genuinely to be made as rent pursuant to an agreement of lease of equipment genuinely required by PCG to be made available to its subsidiary, Brewin Dolphin, for the purpose of that company's business.

Brewin Dolphin's case was that, notwithstanding the purposes for which the rental payments were to be made under the lease agreement, under the terms of section 238 the obligation to make them could still be treated as consideration payable to the company for the purpose of ascertaining the existence of a transaction at an under*value*.

At the root of the objection the judge had felt about the case for Brewin Dolphin was the belief that it was somehow "blowing bot and cold", "approbating and reprobating" or seeking to maintain two inconsistent rights without being put to its election between them.

His Lordship had shared that feeling for much of the argument but did not think that there was any legal objection to the stance Brewin Dolphin sought to take, although *whether it was successful* was quite another matter.

At the root of the doctrines adverted to in the expressions referred to was the requirement that the two rights or courses of action sought to be maintained were truly alternative and inconsistent. The case for Brewin Dolphin *did not* involve the pursuit of two alternative and inconsistent rights or remedies.

The claim of the liquidator for an order against Brewin Dolphin involved the assertion that Bekhor entered into a transaction with Brewin Dolphin at an undervalue *within and* for the purposes of section 238.

Given the width of the definition of "transaction" in section 436 as in*cluding "a gift, agreement or ar*rangement", there was obvious scope for debate as to what was the transaction for the purposes of the section. The answer to that would *not necessarily depend on whether* and if so to what extent two or more contracts were part of a composite whole or linked with or sev*erable from one another*.

Similarly, the question whether the lease agreement was discharged by the acceptance by PCG of the alleged repudiation thereof by the company depended on ascertaining, in accordance with normal contractual principles, the contract to the root of which the alleged breach went.

Thus the two questions, although similar and overlapping, were different. It was theoretically possible for a separate contract to *be both liable to discharge by* acceptance of a breach going to its root and an integral part of a transaction at an undervalue within the meaning of those words in section 238. The issues being different, each had to be decided on its merits.

It was necessary to ascertain, for the purposes of section 238, what was the transaction alleged to have been entered into by Bekhor at an undervalue.

The allegation of the liquidator was that the share sale agreement was the transaction so that only the consideration passing to and from the company thereunder was to be taken into account. That was disputed by Brewin Dolphin on the basis that the court had to have re*gard to the whole transaction not* just that part of it the liquidator sought to challenge.

It was true that the word "transaction" was very widely defined. It was also true that, given the purposes of sections 238, 339 and 423 to which it applied, the court *should not strain to narrow the def*inition by judicial decision.

However, the word "transaction" was to be construed and applied as part of section 238 as a whole. Other parts of the section indicated some of the limits involved.

First, the transaction had to be identified by reference to the person with whom the company entered into it. Only the elements of the transaction between the company and that person could be taken into account.

Thus, without more, a contract *between the company and B could* not be part of a transaction entered into by the company with C. The caveat "without more" was introduced to guard against cases where the transaction was artificially divided.

The second limit flowed from the comparison the statute required the court to make. In each case it was necessary to ascertain the consideration to be received by *the company. In the case of subsec*tion 4(a) the transaction was either a gift or "on terms that provide for the company to receive no consideration". In other cases, as provided for in subsection 4(b), the task was to ascertain the value of the consideration provided by the company.

Whether or not the word "consideration" in those contexts was confined to its legal meaning it clearly connoted the quid pro quo for that which it was alleged the company *disposed of at an undervalue*.

Those limitations pointed clearly to the conclusion that the transaction in the present case was the share sale agreement alone.

First, the parties acting at arms' length and for readily understandable commercial reasons had chosen so to structure the deal be*tween them so that on the face of* the documents the share sale agreement and the lease agreement effected two separate, but linked, transactions.

There was no indication that that different treatment was a sham or otherwise colourable. If parties in such circumstances *chose so to structure their commer*cial dealings the court should give full weight to their intentions.

Second, the share sale agreement and the lease agreement could not be the same transaction for the purposes of the section because, although Bekhor was party *to both of them, only Brewin Dol*phin was party to the first and only PCG party to the second.

Third, the parties to the lease *agreement, Bekhor and PCG, had* unambiguously attributed the four annual payments of £ 312,500 to rent due thereunder for possession and use of the computer equipment to which it related. The promise to make those payments could *not be recharacterised as considera*tion from PCG or Brewin Dolphin "for" the shares being sold by the company.

Accordingly, his Lordship agreed with the judge's conclusion *as to the value of the consideration* provided to the company but not his reasons for it.

The covenant by PCG to pay to the company £1.25 million over four years as rent for the computers could not form any part of the consideration to be compared with that provided by the company in *the form of shares in BSL*.

The Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Laws agreed.

Solicitors: Goodman Derrick; *Cameron McKenna*.

Correction

In Thomas v Baptiste (The Times March 23) Mr Howard Stevens also appeared for the respondents.

European Law Report

Luxembourg

EEA authorisation under pesticide directive is recognised by EC

Regina v Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Ex parte British Agrochemicals Association Ltd

Case C-100/96

Before P. J. G. Kapteyn, President of Chamber and Judges G. Hirsch, J. L. Murray, H. Ragnemalm and R. Schintgen

Advocate General P. Léger

(Opinion October 2, 1997)

[Judgment March 11]

Pesticides which, in a country of the European Economic Area, had already been authorised for mar*keting in accordance with the pro*cedure set out in the Community directive on plant protection products, did not need fresh authorisa*tion under* that procedure when imported from an EEA country into a member state of the European Community, if they had the same *formulation*, active ingredients and effect as a product already authorised in the importing state, unless health and environmental considerations required otherwise.

However, such authorisation was required when the importation was from a non-EEA country and no marketing authorisation under the directive had been granted in another member state.

The Sixth Chamber of the Court *of Justice of the European Commu*nities so held in a preliminary ruling made on a reference under article 177 of the EC Treaty by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court.

The Control of Pesticides Regulations (SI 1986 No 1510), which entered into force in March 1994, provided for a speedy procedure for authorisation for, inter alia, the marketing of imported pesticide products which were identical to master products that were already ap*proved in the United Kingdom*.

By regulation 3(a), an imported product was deemed identical to a master product if the active ingredi*ent in it was manufactured by*, and the formulation of it was produced by, the same company as manufactured the United Kingdom master product, or by an associated undertaking or under licence.

The applicant, which represented 39 members of the agrochemical manufacturing industry, challenged the legality of those regulations in the light of Council Directive 91/414/EEC of July 15, 1991 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market (OJ 1991 L230, p1).

Article 3(1) of that directive pro*vides: "Member states shall pre*scribe that plant protection products may not be placed on the market and used in their territory unless they have authorised the product..."

Under article 2, importation is deemed to constitute placing on the market.

In its judgment the Sixth Chamber of the Court of Justice held:

The applicant argued that Directive 91/414 put in place a rigorous and binding system for the issue of marketing authorisations only after the safety, quality and efficacy of the plant protection product had been *checked by tests*, analyses and trials, and that it did not permit the grant of authorisation by a simplified procedure on the ground that the formulation of the imported product was identical to that of a master product already approved in the United Kingdom.

The court had held in Case 104/75 *Criminal proceedings against de Peijper* ([1976] ECR 613) that if, as the result of a previous importation having led to a grant of marketing authorisation, the public health authorities already had all the particulars for checking *that a medicinal preparation* was effective and not harmful, it was clearly unnecessary, in order to protect the health and life of humans, to require the production of the particulars all over again by a second trader who wished to import another preparation which either was in every respect the same or had differences which had no therapeutic effect.

Moreover, in Case C-201/94 *R v Medicines Control Agency, Ex parte Smith and Nephew Pharmaceuticals Ltd* ([1996] ECR I-5819), which concerned Council Directive 65/65/EEC of January 26, 1965 on the approximation *of provisions* laid down by law, regulation or administrative action relating to proprietary medicinal products (OJ, English Special Edition 1965-1966, p20), as amended, the court had held that that directive did not apply to a proprietary medicinal product covered by marketing authorisation in one member state of the Community and imported into another member state as a parallel import of a proprietary medicinal product already covered by marketing authorisation in the latter state, as the imported product could not *be regarded as being placed on the* market for the first time in the member state of importation.

That reasoning was to be applied, mutatis *mutandis*, to the placing of plant protection products on the market.

Directive 91/414 pursued in particular the objectives of protecting public health and eliminating barriers to trade within the Community, which were comparable to those of Directive 65/65, in addition to *protecting animal health and the* environment. It would go beyond what was necessary to achieve those objectives if Directive 91/414 had to be applied to a parallel import of a plant protection product already covered by marketing authorisation.

However it was important that the competent authority should verify, apart from the existence of a common origin, that the two products in question, if not identical in all respects, had at least been manufactured according to the same formulation, using the same ingredient, and had the same effect, with due regard to differences in climatic and other conditions.

If those conditions were met, the *product to be imported was to be* considered already placed on the market in the member state of importation, and so was to benefit from the authorisation granted for the product on the market, unless the protection of health and the environment required otherwise.

If not all those conditions were met, authorisation *could only* be granted in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Directive.

Since Decision No 7/94 of the *EEA Joint Committee of March 21*, 1994 (OJ 1994 L160, p1) amended Annex II to the EEA Agreement, dealing with technical regulations, standards, testing and certification, and extended the application of Directive 91/414 to all EEA territory, the above conclusions applied to imports from any EEA country.

However, a product imported from a third country did not provide the same guarantees with regard to protection of human and animal health and the environment as were afforded by a product imported from a Community or EEA state in which it had already been granted marketing authorisation under the Directive.

There was at present no harmo*nisation at international level of* the conditions in which plant protection products could be placed on the market, nor, at international level, any general principle of the free movement of goods comparable to that prevailing within the Community and endorsed by the latter.

Accordingly, the directive applied to products imported from a third country even if the competent authorities of the member state of importation considered the product to be identical to a master product already authorised under the directive.

On those grounds, the European Court ruled:

1 Where the competent authority of a member state found that a plant protection product imported from an EEA state in which it was already covered by marketing authorisation granted in accordance with Directive 91/414, if not identical in all respects to a product already authorised within the member state of importation, at least

(i) shared a common origin with that product in that it had been manufactured by the same company or by an associated undertaking or *under licence* according to the same formulation,

(ii) was manufactured using the same active ingredient, and

(iii) also had *the same* effect with due regard to differences which might exist in relation to agriculture, plant health and environment, and in particular climatic conditions, relevant to the use of the product, that product must be able to benefit from the marketing authorisation already granted in the member state of importation, unless that was precluded by considerations concerning the protection of human and animal health *and of the* environment.

2 The competent authority of one member state could grant marketing authorisation for a plant protection product *imported* from a *third* country which was not already covered by marketing authorisation granted in accordance with the provisions of Directive 91/414 in another member state, only under the conditions laid down by that directive.

Court of Appeal

Law Report March 30 1999

House of Lords

Ministry entitled to Crown immunity

Derry v Ministry of Defence

Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice Chadwick and Lord Justice Laws

[Judgment March 18]

The Ministry of Defence was entitled to rely on the immunity from liability in tort in section 10 of the Crown Proceedings Act 1947 to defeat a soldier's claim in negligence against a military doctor for alleged failure to diagnose and treat a carcinoma.

The Court of Appeal so held by a majority, Lord Justice Kennedy dissenting, dismissing the appeal of the plaintiff, Andrew John Derry, against the decision of Mr Justice Butterfield (*The Times* June 8, 1998) on a preliminary issue that no liability attached to the defendant, the Ministry of Defence, for personal injury and loss of expectation of life suffered by the plaintiff.

Section 10 of the Crown Proceedings Act 1947 provides: "Nothing done or omitted to be done by a member of the armed forces of the Crown while on duty ... shall subject either him or the Crown to liability in tort for causing the death of another person, or for causing personal injury ... in so far as the death or personal injury is due to anything suffered by that other person while he is a member of the armed forces of the Crown if - (a) at the time when that thing is suffered by that other person, he is either on duty as a member of the armed forces of the Crown or is, though not on duty as such, on any land, premises ... for the time being used for the purposes of the armed forces..."

Mr Walter Aylen, QC and Mr Karl King for the plaintiff; Mr Brian Leveson, QC and Mr Robert Jay, QC, for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY, dissenting, said that in 1985 the plaintiff was a soldier serving in Germany. In September 1985 he was referred to an ophthalmic specialist, Dr Pampapathi, at the British Military Hospital in Munster.

It was his case that he was at that time suffering from a carcinoma in the left orbit. That condition was not diagnosed or treated until 1987 when he went to a hospital in Worcester.

In September 1989 he commenced proceedings against the defendant alleging that Dr Pampapathi, employed by the defendant, was negligent in failing to diagnose and treat the carcinoma from 1985 onwards.

In its defence the defendant relied on section 10(1) of the 1947 Act. For the purposes of the preliminary point only the defendant accepted that the carcinoma was present in 1985.

His Lordship said that for the purposes of section 10 the thing suffered had to be distinct from the personal injury, because the personal injury had to be "due" to it, and it could not be the acts or omissions relied upon as giving rise to liability.

As Mr Aylen pointed out, an exacerbation of a pre-existing carcinoma would continue whether the plaintiff was on or off duty so a claim for damages for medical negligence consisting of an omission to diagnose and thus a failure to treat fell outside the immunity in section 10.

Mr Leveson submitted that the "thing" suffered in consequence of the doctor's allegedly negligent omission to diagnose was the untreated progression of the carcinoma and the personal injury sustained in consequence of that thing was the damage to healthy cells and loss of expectation of life.

But in his Lordship's judgment, the untreated progression of the carcinoma was the personal injury suffered by the plaintiff as a result of the doctor's alleged misdiagnosis.

It was not conceptually different from the relevant personal injury. The defendant could not rely on section 10.

LORD JUSTICE CHADWICK said that section 2(1) of the 1947 Act exposed the Crown, for the first time, to liability in respect of torts committed by its servants or agents. But that liability, in respect of the death or personal injury of a member of the armed forces, was restricted by section 10.

Section 10 was repealed by the Crown Proceedings (Armed Forces) Act 1987, save in respect of anything suffered by a person in consequence of an act or omission committed before May 15, 1987.

Two points were clear.

First, the death or personal injury was not, in itself, the thing suffered for the purposes of section 10(1) and (2). That followed from the requirement that the personal injury was due to the thing suffered. The thing suffered had to be a cause of the personal injury: the two could not be the same.

Second, the thing suffered had to be something which was suffered by the person in respect of whom the claim was brought. The thing suffered could not be an event or happening unconnected with, or independent of, the person by whom it was suffered.

Where the personal injury resulted from impact or trauma there was unlikely to be difficulty in identifying the thing suffered. It would be the impact or trauma itself.

The question whether or not the act or omission gave rise to liability depended not on where that act was done or where that omission occurred but on the circumstances in which the thing suffered was suffered by the person by whom it was suffered.

More difficulty arose where personal injury resulted from disease. In *Pearce v Secretary of State for Defence* ([1988] AC 755) the plaintiff alleged that, while in the Armed Forces in the South Pacific he had been exposed to radiation from the conduct of nuclear weapons tests. The injuries were not manifest until many years later.

It was held that the thing suffered was the exposure to radiation. That approach was subsequently applied in *Quinn v Ministry of Defence* ([1998] PIQR 387) where the plaintiff alleged that he had inhaled asbestos dust while serving on ships of the Royal Navy. Many years later he suffered from mesothelioma.

It was held that the thing suffered was the inhalation of asbestos dust and that was the consequence of the condition of the ship.

In both those cases it was perhaps unnecessary to examine the distinction between the event which had given rise to the disease and the disease itself.

Whether it was the event giving rise to the disease or the disease itself which was the thing suffered, that thing suffered was plainly suffered in consequence of the nature or condition of Crown property.

It was the analysis in *Pearce* of the earlier decision of *Bell v Secretary of State for Defence* ([1986] QB 322) which put the matter beyond doubt.

In *Bell* case the soldier died as a result of head injuries received from a fall at an Army base in Germany. An Army doctor examined him and sent him to a civilian hospital, allegedly failing to mention the head injury.

As a result the civilian hospital did not diagnose the head injury quickly. Had the head injury been diagnosed quickly Trooper Bell's life could have been saved by neurosurgery.

The Court of Appeal treated the thing suffered as the failure of the Army doctor to provide accurate medical notes.

In *Pearce* the Court of Appeal held that that was wrong. The thing suffered in *Bell* was the misdiagnosis at the civilian hospital over the period during which the deceased therefore did not receive the treatment which would have saved his life.

In the present case the negligent failure to diagnose correctly was contemporaneous with the misdiagnosis which resulted from that failure. The point of time at which each tortious omission occurred was the same time as the time at which the thing suffered, that is the misdiagnosis, was suffered by the plaintiff.

It followed that the thing suffered by the plaintiff for the purposes of section 10(1) of the 1947 Act was suffered at a time when he was on Crown land, at the military hospital.

Lord Justice Laws delivered a judgment concurring with Lord Justice Chadwick.

Solicitors: The Compton Partnership, Bexleyheath; Treasury Solicitor.

No supply made until payment or tax invoice issued

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Svenska International plc

Before Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Clyde and Lord Hutton

[Speeches March 25]

Regulation 23(1) of the Value Added Tax (General) Regulations (SI 1985 No 886) provided that where there was a continuous supply of services, no supply was to be treated as having been made until there had been a payment or a tax invoice had been issued.

By section 29(1) of the Value Added Tax Act 1983, where two companies became members of a VAT group, supplies between them were to be disregarded and any business carried on by a group member was treated as carried on by the representative member.

Where, therefore, company A had reclaimed input tax on inward supplies used to provide continuous management services to B, a non-VAT registered bank making mainly exempt supplies, but by the time A issued an invoice for those services B had become registered in a VAT group with A, the latter being the representative member, the inward supplies which would have been attributable to taxable supplies from A to B, had an invoice been issued before the formation of the VAT group, fell instead to be attributed to supplies made outside the group, including those by B to its customers.

It followed that to the extent that the supplies to those customers were exempt A had, for the purposes of regulation 34(1)(b) of the 1985 Regulations, used an inward supply attributed to an intended taxable supply to make an exempt supply and therefore had to repay the proportion of input tax for which it had been credited which was attributable to the exempt supplies.

The House of Lords so held (Lord Lloyd dissenting) in dismissing an appeal by Svenska International plc from the order of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, Lord Justice Auld and Lord Justice Aldous) (*The Times* July 3, 1997; [1997] STC 958) reversing the decision of Mr Justice Carnwath to set aside a decision of a VAT tribunal dismissing Svenska's appeal against two assessments claiming back input tax.

Svenska, a United Kingdom subsidiary of a Swedish bank, provided all the management services to the bank's London branch for a charge. The services provided included staff, use of shared premises, office services, telecommunications, electricity, and legal and accounting services.

Svenska was registered for VAT at all material times but the branch could not be registered until 1991, when it was included in a VAT group with Svenska, with the latter as representative member.

From 1987 to 1991 Svenska had provided the services and recovered in full the input tax it attributed to the supplies to the branch without issuing an invoice nor receiving payment, although amounts in respect of the services were accrued in the accounts of both bodies.

An invoice was issued by Svenska in 1992 for its services up to 1991 which, by virtue of section 29(1), did not charge output tax and it was duly paid.

Mr David Milne, QC and Mr Rupert Baldry for Svenska; Mr Nigel Pleming, QC, for the commissioners.

LORD HUTTON said that the principal argument advanced by the commissioners had been that services supplied by the London branch to third parties, which included exempt services, were, pursuant to section 29 of the 1983 Act, to be regarded as supplied by Svenska so that Svenska had used the *supplies to it to make exempt supplies* and accordingly regulation 34(1)(b) applied.

Mr Milne had advanced two main submissions.

First, that during the period between 1987 and 1991 Svenska did in fact instantly use the goods and services supplied to it for the intended purpose of providing the onward services to the London branch.

Therefore when the London branch joined the VAT group on August 1, 1991 there were no "accumulated services", to use the term employed by the commissioners, and regulation 34 could not apply, because Svenska had already made taxable supplies to the London branch so that there were no supplies which Svenska could use or appropriate for use.

His Lordship could not accept that submission. Regulation 23(1) made it clear that where there was a continuous supply of services, no supply was to be treated as having been made until there had been a payment or a tax invoice had been issued.

Mr Milne's second main submission had been that, as Mr Justice Carnwath had held, the commissioners had failed to point to anything done by Svenska which could be regarded as a use or appropriation by it.

However, Mr Pleming had succeeded in demonstrating that under VAT law there had been a use by Svenska.

Mr Pleming's argument had consisted of the following propositions.

Svenska had received supplies which were attributable to an intended taxable supply by it to the London branch. Those supplies received by Svenska could not be treated as supplied by it to the London branch prior to August 1, 1991 because prior to that date neither a payment was received nor a tax invoice was issued.

After that date those services were to be treated as used in supplying services, some of which were exempt, to the customers of the London branch.

But the London branch was then a member of the VAT group of which Svenska was the representative member and accordingly, pursuant to section 29(1), those services to third parties were to be treated as a supply by Svenska.

Therefore the services received by Svenska between 1987 and August 1, 1991 were to be treated as used by Svenska after August 1, 1991 in making supplies which were, in part, exempt.

In his Lordship's opinion, Mr Pleming's argument was valid. It was based upon artificial concepts, but the 1983 Act and the 1985 Regulations required tribunals and courts to apply artificial concepts.

The requirement under regulation 23(1) in relation to continuous supplies of services that services which, in the real world of commerce, had actually been supplied to, and already used by, another person were not to be treated as supplied until a payment had been received or a tax invoice issued, gave support to the view that such supplies could be deemed to be used at a time subsequent to their actual use and gave weight to Mr Pleming's submission that such supplies did not simply disappear into limbo.

Lord Slynn and Lord Hope delivered concurring opinions and Lord Clyde agreed. Lord Lloyd delivered a dissenting opinion.

Solicitors: Beachcroft Stanleys; Solicitor, Customs and Excise.

Re-litigation is not necessarily abuse of process

Bradford and Bingley Building Society v Seddon; Hancock and Others, Third Parties

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Auld and Lord Justice Ward

[Judgment March 11]

The court should exercise caution before striking out for abuse of process an action that involved the re-litigation of issues raised in an earlier action in accordance with the principle established in *Henderson v Henderson* ((1843) 3 Hare 100).

In a case of mere re-litigation not giving rise to cause of action or issue estoppel the onus was on the person making the allegation to establish what it was that made the further litigation an abuse.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing an interlocutory appeal by Mr M. W. Seddon, defendant to an action by the plaintiff, Bradford and Bingley Building Society, from the order of Judge Kershaw, QC, sitting as a judge of the High Court in Manchester on March 23, 1998, striking out as an abuse of process Mr Seddon's third party proceedings against Mr Rodney Hancock, Mr I. R. Walsh and Mr S. L. Rhodes, formerly partners trading as Hancocks.

Mr Michael Black, QC, for Mr Seddon; Mr Mark Halliwell for Mr Walsh; Mr Philip Raynor, QC, for Mr Rhodes; Mr Hancock did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE AULD said that the appeal raised the question in what circumstances a court might strike out as an abuse of process an action between parties and on grounds different from those in an earlier action.

Was inconsistency enough in the absence of special circumstances, or, for example, had there to be some additional factor such as dishonesty or a collateral attack on the earlier judgment to render the inconsistency an abuse?

Mr Seddon's claim in the earlier action was against Mr Hancock, an accountant, for damages for negligence and/or an indemnity in respect of a failed investment that involved Mr Seddon taking a mortgage of £120,000 from the Bradford and Bingley.

Mr Hancock had admitted liability but Mr Seddon was unable to enforce the judgment as Mr Hancock had no money.

As a result, Mr Seddon owed the building society over £180,000 and when it instituted proceedings to recover that sum, he sought by the third party proceedings to revive the unsatisfied claim against Mr Hancock and to include two of his partners, Mr Walsh and Mr Rhodes.

Mr Seddon's third party claim was expressed in broader terms than his earlier claim. He sought an indemnity towards his liability to the building society and damages in respect of failure to indemnify him, negligence and/or misrepresentation.

The broad question was whether the second claim fell foul of the dictum of Sir James Wigram in *Henderson v Henderson* (at p115) that a party should, save in special circumstances, bring forward his whole case in one go and not subsequently seek to re-open the same subject matter by reference to claims against different persons and/or in respect of different issues.

There was an important distinction between res judicata, cause of action or issue estoppel, and abuse of process not qualifying as res judicata.

The former, in its cause of action form was an absolute bar to re-litigation and in its issue estoppel form also, save in special circumstances.

The latter, which might arise where there was no cause of action or issue estoppel, was not subject to the same mechanical test, the task of the court being to draw the balance between the competing claims of one party to put his case before the court and of the other not to be unjustly hounded given the earlier history of the matter.

The *Henderson* rule was capable of application where the parties in which the issue was raised were different from those in earlier proceedings: see *Yat Tung Investment Co Ltd v Dao HengBank Ltd* ([1975] AC 581).

Equally, the rule might in an appropriate case apply to a plaintiff who could and should have pursued his claim in an earlier action against the same defendant: see *Ashmore v British Coal Corporation* ([1990] 2 QB 338).

The statement by Lord Justice Simon Brown in *C (a Minor) v Hackney London Borough Council* ([1996] 1 WLR 789, 793) that the *Henderson* rule, which he described as "an extended application of the res judicata doctrine", could not apply to someone not a party to the earlier proceedings, was contrary to the decision of the Privy Council in *Yat Tung* and did not distinguish clearly res judicata and abuse of process independent of the former's strict limits.

Mere re-litigation, in circumstances not giving rise to cause of action or issue estoppel, did not necessarily give rise to abuse of process.

Equally, the maintenance of a second claim which could have been part of an earlier one, or which conflicted with an earlier one, should not per se, be regarded as an abuse of process.

In a case of re-litigation falling short of res judicata, the onus should be on the person alleging abuse of process to establish what it was that made the further litigation an abuse.

References in the *Henderson* rule and in various modern authorities to the need for special case or circumstances to justify litigating a matter that should have been litigated on an earlier occasion were not an obstacle to that interpretation of the law relating to abuse of process as distinct from res judicata.

To construe them as such would undermine the basis of the court's jurisdiction as it had developed, namely to look for some element additional to mere re-litigation, to avoid restrictive rules and to be cautious before barring people from access to the courts.

A further pointer in the direction of requiring the party raising the issue of abuse to establish it, and against that of obligating the claimant to persuade the court that there were special circumstances for his re-litigation, was the need for caution before striking out claims without a full hearing of their merits and demerits.

As Lord Justice May had said in *Manson v Vooght* (*The Times* November 23, 1998): "It is axiomatic that the court will only strike out a claim as an abuse after most careful consideration."

The basis of the judge's finding of abuse of process was that Mr Seddon was trying to litigate issues which were inconsistent with those he had litigated before and, incidentally, that he was trying to litigate issues which he could have litigated before.

The judge should have been more hesitant before striking out the third party claim on a conclusion of inconsistency based on what were arguably equivocal pleadings and disposal by the court in the earlier action.

More importantly, he should have looked beyond any inconsistency that he found and considered whether Mr Walsh and Mr Rhodes had shown differences between the two claims that made the third party claim in all the circumstances an abusive process.

Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Ward agreed.

Solicitors: Putsmans, Birmingham; Oldham Rust Jobson, Stafford; Lyons Wilson, Manchester.

Substituting manslaughter for murder verdict

Regina v Weekes

Before Lord Justice Schiemann, Mr Justice Hughes and Judge Martin Stephens, QC

[Judgment February 18]

The Court of Appeal could substitute a conviction for murder with that of manslaughter by reason of diminished responsibility under section 3 of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968, even though the jury could not, on the evidence placed before it at trial, have found the accused guilty of manslaughter by reason of diminished responsibility.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held when allowing an appeal by Stephen Weekes against his conviction on May 22, 1998 at the Central Criminal Court (Mr Justice Hutchinson and a jury) for murder and substituting one of manslaughter.

Section 3 of the 1968 Act provides:

"(1) This section applies on an appeal against conviction, where the appellant has been convicted of an offence and the jury could on the indictment have found him guilty of some other offence, and on the finding of the jury it appears to the Court of Appeal that the jury must have been satisfied of facts which proved him guilty of the other offence.

"(2) The Court may, instead of allowing or dismissing the appeal, substitute for the verdict found by the jury a verdict of guilty of the other offence, and pass such sentence in substitution for the sentence passed at the trial as may be authorised by law for the other offence..."

Mr Nigel Rumfitt, QC, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mrs Rebecca Poulet, QC, for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE SCHIEMANN said that the accused was suffering from schizophrenia, which caused him to believe that he was attacked by the deceased and that because the psychiatrists instructed by the defence and prosecution all agreed that his belief was unfounded, they were plotting against him.

He accordingly refused to permit evidence that he was suffering from diminished responsibility to be put before the jury at his trial, contrary to his counsel's advice.

On appeal, the accused sought to adduce the medical evidence of diminished responsibility which had been available, but not adduced at trial.

His Lordship said that had the medical evidence been placed before the jury, it would have acquitted the accused of murder and returned a conviction of manslaughter by reason of diminished responsibility.

The indictment was sufficiently widely framed to permit a conviction of manslaughter, and the evidence must have satisfied the jury that the accused unlawfully and deliberately killed the deceased.

Thus the jury could have found him guilty of manslaughter, even though it could not, on the evidence, have done so by finding that he was suffering from diminished responsibility.

Section 3 of the 1968 Act was not to be so narrowly construed as to prevent a substitution on appeal on the ground of diminished responsibility where, on the evidence before the jury, it could not have found the defendant guilty of manslaughter by reason of diminished responsibility.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Highbury.

Pre-hearing guidance for coroners is suggested

Regina v Lincoln Coroner, Ex parte Hay (Annette)

Before Lord Justice Brooke and Mr Justice Forbes

[Judgment February 19]

The Coroners' Society would do well to publish guidance to coroners on pre-hearing techniques. Such guidance could include the circulation of a provisional list of witnesses to be called together with a short statement of their evidence.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, inter alia, in allowing an order under section 13(2) of the Coroners Act 1988 quashing the inquisition of an inquest conducted at Lincoln on March 18 and 19, 1997, by Mr Roger Atkinson and a jury which had held that Brett Andrew Hay, died of diabetic keto-acidosis, from natural causes.

On July 8, 1996 Mr Hay was transferred to the hospital wing at Lincoln Prison when his condition had deteriorated.

Steven Michael Christopher Hopkinson, a trained nurse, who was the health care officer on duty that night had taken a blood sugar test and administered a sugar rich drink. Later the medical officer on call, Dr Nina Sen, was contacted and gave advice as to medication to be administered but did not see Mr Hay. Mr Hay was kept under observation but was later found dead.

Mr Hopkinson and Dr Sen had been interviewed under caution by the police and notes of those interviews had been taken.

Mr Edward Fitzgerald, QC and Mr Jonathan Glasson for Mrs Hay; Miss Alison Hewitt and Mr Peter Spink for the Home Office.

LORD JUSTICE BROOKE, delivering the judgment of the court, said that their Lordships were unwilling to fetter the discretion of a coroner by being at all prescriptive about the procedures he should adopt in order to achieve a full, fair and thorough inquiry.

However, experience in other contexts, such as civil and criminal trials and planning and other inquiries, had shown that attention to points of detail in advance of a hearing often paid rich dividends, particularly by eliminating the need to avoid adjournments.

Their Lordships were therefore sure that it would be helpful if the Coroners' Society were to publish guidance to coroners about the different pre-hearing techniques which had been found to have been useful in different contexts, including Mr Fitzgerald's suggestion of circulating a list of the witnesses the coroner provisionally intended to call, accompanied by a short summary of the gist of each witness's evidence.

The adoption of that course would have avoided some of the difficulties which arose in the present case.

However, their Lordships were not prepared to rule that any such procedures should be obligatory, even in an inquest of this kind.

Subject to the need to obey the requirements of the Coroners Act 1988 and the Coroners Rules (SI 1984 No 552), it was for each coroner to decide how best he should perform his onerous duties in a way that was as fair as possible to everyone concerned as well as doing his best to reduce the number of avoidable adjournments.

As to the notes which recorded the police interviews of both witnesses, his Lordship said that the written notes were documents, but the actual questions and answers which were thus noted were not documents within rule 37 of the 1984 Rules.

Thus, there would have been nothing to prevent the interviewing police officers from giving appropriate evidence as to what was said in the course of each interview.

Although the evidence would have been hearsay, it was clear that there was no rule of law which precluded a coroner from admitting hearsay evidence: see *R v Greater Manchester Coroner, Ex parte Tal* ([1985] 1 QB 67, 84).

The coroner was wrong in law to hold, in effect, that rule 37 prevented him from admitting the notes of the police interview into evidence. The interviewing police officers were available and could have given evidence about what was said by each witness during the police interviews.

By having regard only to the written notes of the interviews, and treating them as documents to which the provisions of rule 37 applied, the coroner misdirected himself because he failed to give any general consideration to the admissibility of other evidence as to what was said during those interviews, such as the evidence of the interviewing officers.

Mr Justice Forbes agreed.

Solicitors: Strachan St George, Dalston; Treasury Solicitor.

Allowing contemnor to call evidence

Grupo Torras SA and Another v Al Sabah and Others

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Sedley

[Judgment February 19]

Where a judge exercised his discretion to allow a party who was in contempt of court to call evidence, that evidence should be called by the contemnor himself if he was acting in person or by an advocate instructed on his behalf.

The Court of Appeal so held by a majority in a reserved judgment allowing in part an interlocutory appeal by the plaintiffs, Grupo Torras SA and Torras Hostench London Ltd (in liquidation), against the decision of Mr Justice Mance in the Queen's Bench Division on February 4 to allow the first defendant, Sheikh Fahad Mohammed Al Sabah, to call evidence, despite the fact that he was in contempt of court and not intending to be represented or personally present.

The first plaintiff was a holding company of a large group of companies carrying on a variety of businesses in Spain.

The actions concerned a series of alleged frauds.

Among the defences raised were that the plaintiffs lacked capacity to bring the action, since the shareholders' resolution required by Spanish law had not been passed before the writ was issued and that the plaintiffs had not suffered any loss.

Following his failure to comply with various orders of the judge, Sheikh Fahad's legal representatives had withdrawn from the case and Sheikh Fahad had ceased to participate in the trial.

He had then written to the judge asking him to allow expert evidence to be called from Professor Valentin Cortes on Spanish law and from Mr David Lee on whether the plaintiffs had suffered any loss.

Mr Anthony Boswood, QC and Mr Andrew Popplewell, QC, for the plaintiffs; Sheikh Fahad did not appear and was not represented.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the judge, notwithstanding the wilful contumacious behaviour of Sheikh Fahad, had had a discretion to decide to allow the evidence to be called.

So far as Professor Cortes was concerned, the judge had been perfectly entitled to exercise the discretion in the way in which he did. The professor's evidence went to the issue as to whether the plaintiffs were competent to bring proceedings under Spanish law. That issue was very close to being an issue going to jurisdiction.

The position as to Mr Lee was different. His Lordship was by no means satisfied that his expert evidence was essential for the just resolution of the issue of quantum, which was very much one for the judge. It was not evidence which the court should receive.

The court had extensive powers to deal with situations where, for good reason, a party was unable to take part in the proceedings in the normal way.

However, there was no reason why there should be a departure from the normal approach in the present case.

If the professor was to be called to give evidence, then he should be called by Sheikh Fahad, if he chose to act in person, or by an advocate instructed on his behalf.

It had been implicit in the plaintiffs' argument that it would be in breach of the professional codes of conduct and probably a breach of the duty which advocates owed to the court for a barrister or a solicitor to appear on Sheikh Fahad's behalf.

Sheikh Fahad's former legal advisers had acted with complete propriety in withdrawing from the case. However, that did not mean that there was any impediment in counsel and solicitors acting on his behalf in relation to the discrete issue of the competence of the plaintiffs to bring proceedings.

Lord Justice Sedley gave a concurring judgment.

LORD JUSTICE ALDOUS, dissenting, said that he would have allowed the appeal upon the basis that the court should not entertain any application by Sheikh Fahad until his contempt had been purged.

Solicitors: Baker & McKenzie.

Place of performance on delivery

Viskase Ltd and Another v Paul Kiefel GmbH

Before Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Chadwick

[Judgment March 19]

In a claim for breach of contract between an English company manufacturing plastic packaging products and its German supplier of the machines used in the manufacturing process, the contractual obligation to supply a machine which was fit for the purpose was performed at the time of delivery of the machine in Germany, which was the "place of performance" for the purposes of article 5(1) of the Brussels Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters 1968.

The Court of Appeal so held (Lord Justice Evans dissenting) in a reserved judgment allowing the appeal of the defendants, Paul Kiefel GmbH, against the dismissal by Judge McGonigal, sitting as a judge of the High Court in the Newcastle upon Tyne Mercantile Court on January 29, 1998, of their application to set aside the writ of the plaintiffs, Viskase Ltd and Viskase (UK) Ltd, and concluded, inter alia, that the English courts had jurisdiction to hear the plaintiffs' claim for substantial damages for alleged breaches of eight contracts between 1989 and 1992 for the supply by the defendants of eight thermo-forming machines used for manufacturing plastic packaging.

Mr Julian Flaux, QC and Mr Ian Atherton for the defendants; Miss Mary Vitoria, QC and Mr Thomas Moody-Stuart for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE EVANS, dissenting, said that the correct approach to the interpretation of article 5(1) was set out in the speech of Lord Goff of Chieveley in *Kleinwort Benson Ltd v Glasgow City Council* ([1999] AC 153, 164, 166). The issue in the present case was whether the place for performance of contractual obligation which the defendants were alleged to have broken or failed to perform was in England rather than Germany.

Mr Flaux submitted, inter alia, that the obligation was the defendants' obligation to supply machines which were suitable for the purpose; by the terms of the contracts the place for performance was at the defendants' works in Germany: and the subsequent installation of the machines in England after delivery could not alter the nature of the obligation or the place of performance.

Miss Vitoria contended that the relevant contractual obligation arose under a warranty that the machines would be suitable for the process and that the place where the obligation was in substance to be performed was England.

Notwithstanding the restrictive interpretation which article 5(1) should be given, the underlying purpose was to give to the court having a close connecting factor with the dispute the jurisdiction to resolve it.

She submitted, alternatively, that there was an implied warranty for fitness, under section 14(3) of the Sale of Goods Act 1979, which continued for the commercial life of the particular machine.

In his Lordship's view, the difficult questions as to whether the relevant contractual obligation was referrable to a statutory implied term under section 14(3) did not have to be answered, because the claim was based on an alleged express undertaking by the defendants or their agent that the machines would achieve results when they were put into use at the plaintiffs' factory.

There was a conceptual difficulty in ascribing a place of performance to an obligation which did not require any act of performance by the contracting party, but was rather an acceptance of responsibility upon the occurrence or non-occurrence of an event.

However, that had to be done for the purposes of article 5(1), and, in his Lordship's view, the alleged undertaking that the machines would achieve certain production levels and efficiencies at the factory in England could properly be regarded as a contractual obligation whose place of performance was in England.

It was akin to a performance guarantee which was "performed" or broken where the subject-matter was situated at the relevant time.

The English court had jurisdiction in the case because the principal contractual obligation alleged to be broken had its place of performance in England.

If there was a performance guarantee, then subject to the conceptual difficulty referred to, the position would be clear: the guarantee, if performance fell below the agreed standard, would be broken in England.

However, the alleged express term was complied with or broken in England. Whether the machines would so perform could not be determined at the time and place of delivery in Germany, but only when installed and operated in England.

LORD JUSTICE CHADWICK said that the court had to assume that, if the action proceeded to trial, the plaintiffs would establish a contractual obligation as was pleaded; that was the "obligation in question" for the purposes of article 5(1).

The obligation was to supply a machine which was reasonably fit for the known purpose. That obligation had to be performed at the time when the machine was supplied. There was no other opportunity to perform it.

The seller had not undertaken an obligation to do whatever was necessary from time to time to ensure that the machine fulfilled the purpose for which it had been purchased; that was not alleged.

The position was, in his Lordship's view, that the seller was in breach of the obligation to supply a machine fit for the known purpose if the machine failed subsequently because, as supplied, it was not fit for use in commercial production.

But the breach was the breach of the obligation to supply a machine fit for the known purpose. There was no other or subsequent breach. A subsequent failure of the machine in the course of commercial production was evidence of the antecedent breach in supplying a machine which was not fit for such use.

If the obligation had to be performed at the time when the machine was supplied, then the place at which it had to be performed was the place of delivery under the contract.

His Lordship did not find the authorities relied on by the plaintiffs of assistance. Their submissions sought to elevate a warranty as to fitness for purpose into an undertaking to guarantee future performance.

There was nothing in the pleaded case which suggested that the plaintiffs sought to rely on a guarantee of future performance. Nor did the documents before the court justify a conclusion that the plaintiffs had any prospect of establishing that the defendants undertook to guarantee future performance.

Delivery was to take place at the defendants' factory in Germany. That was the place at which the obligation was to be performed.

Lord Justice Morritt gave a judgment agreeing with Lord Justice Chadwick as to the place of performance of the contracts.

Solicitors: Eversheds, Newcastle upon Tyne; Jacksons, Middlesbrough.

BEN CURTIS / PA

Nicholas Anelka scores Arsenal's goal in the 1-1 draw against Southampton at Highbury earlier this season. The return match, vital for both teams, takes place this Saturday

Kermit's team leapfrogs up to claim £1,000 prize

If it's not broken, don't fix it. That could be the watchword of Alastair Dobson, of Blackburn, who made his last alteration to his Fantasy League team in early November and found out last week that it had won our monthly prize for March with a total of 54 points.

Kermit's Chosen 11, the team selected by Mr Dobson, who works as new business supervisor for a finance company, tied for first place but took the prize on the strength of a higher jump (54,229 places) than his closest rival.

It is interesting to note that Mr Dobson, who is a keen supporter of Blackburn Rovers and a regular at Ewood Park — work permitting — has no Rovers players in his line-up.

"Initially, I started with Kevin Davies in the side," he said. "I expected him to have a good season."

Enough said. Davies was the first casualty of a series of transfers which saw Marcus Gayle join the team; Gayle's eight points, most gained in Wimbledon's 2-1 win at Hillsborough, were invaluable.

The top two performers in the team were Arsenal's David Seaman and Ian Harte of Leeds United, another wise signing. "I noticed that Jason Dodd was injured and I had read that Harte was an up-and-coming star," Mr Dobson said.

With the race for the prize proving so tight, every point was important; even the two contributed by Steve Stone. Only Henning Berg of Manchester United (a former Blackburn player) failed to score a point, although Graeme Le Saux, who won an FA Carling Premiership medal while at Ewood Park, made up for it with a vital four. Mr Dobson wins the £1,000 plus £100 worth of sports equipment.

☐ There have been no FA Carling Premiership matches played in the past seven days, so there are no changes in the points totals in the player lists (right).

However, four new players signed from outside the Fantasy League by Premership clubs before last Thursday's transfer deadline — including Kevin Campbell and Graham Stuart — are now included.

The hiatus in the Premiership fixture list caused by the international weekend means, as usual, some alteration to our usual arrangements.

Next Tuesday, we announce the winner of the £500 ON-Target prize based on the numbers printed on these pages a week ago. Because we are not printing any ON-Target numbers today, the winner based on next week's numbers will receive a rollover prize of £1,000.

Next week's winner of our team of the week will also receive a rollover prize of £1,000 plus £100 of sports equipment.

The weekly winner will be determined only by matches played on Easter Saturday. The player lists published on these pages next week will also reflect only the points scored in the Easter Saturday programme.

Player scores from fixtures played on Easter Monday and Tuesday will be included in the scores given in the player lists on the following Tuesday, April 13.

☐ For legal reasons, *The Times* Fantasy League is no longer able to accept entries from players under 18 years of age.

Players of 17 years and younger who are already registered in the main and youth leagues will, however, be allowed to remain in the competition.



MONTHLY WINNER

Kermit's Chosen 11

David Seaman (ARS)	9
Ian Harte (LEE)	9
Graeme Le Saux (CHE)	4
Henning Berg (MAN)	0
Rio Ferdinand (WES)	6
Steve Stone (NOT)	2
Matthew Le Tissier (SOU)	3
Alan Thompson (AST)	3
David Ginola (TOT)	4
Marcus Gayle (WIM)	8
Hamilton Ricard (MID)	6
Total points:	54

PRIZES

- *£50,000 to the top Fantasy League manager, plus a trip for two to the European Cup final*
- *£10,000 to the runner-up*
- *£5,000 for third place*
- *£1,000 monthly prizes: eight prizes of £1,000, plus £100 of Puma sports equipment*
- *£500 weekly prizes: 36 prizes of £500, plus £100 of Puma sports equipment*
- *£1,000 youth prize, plus monthly prizes of a Premiership football shirt*
- *£500 weekly On-Target prize*

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There are no ON-Target numbers this week. The winners from last week's numbers will announced on these pages next Tuesday.

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Select a team of 11 Premiership players from those listed right. The total value of your team must not exceed £50m and you cannot choose more than one player from the same Premiership club. Your team must be in a 4-4-2 formation with: one goalkeeper; two full-backs; two centre-backs; four midfielders; and two forwards.

TO ENTER BY POST Name your team on the entry form, left, in no more than 16 characters. Enter the correct three-digit player codes from the list, right, followed by the players' names. Enter the first three characters of each player's team under the heading CLUB, ie, LEE for Leeds. Also enter the value of each player shown on the list right. Add up the values of the 11 players in your team and make sure the total does not exceed £50m. Send your entry to the address shown, with a cheque/PO for £2.50 (£10 sterling outside UK or RoI) or your credit-card details. You will get confirmation of your team and your personal identity number (PIN) on receipt of your entry form. Readers under 18 should seek parental permission before entering. They must state their date of birth and indicate if they wish to enter our Youth League.

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THE TIMES FANTASY LEAGUE ENTRY FORM

Submit your entry as soon as possible to maximise your point-scoring opportunities

FANTASY TEAM NAME (up to 16 characters) ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

LUCKY DIP If you wish to have your team selected by us at random, tick box ☐

CODE	NAME	CLUB (first 3 letters)	VALUE
CODE	GOALKEEPER NAME	CLUB	VALUE
			£ m
CODE	FULL-BACK NAME	CLUB	VALUE
			£ m
CODE	FULL-BACK NAME	CLUB	VALUE
			£ m
CODE	CENTRE-BACK NAME	CLUB	VALUE
			£ m
CODE	CENTRE-BACK NAME	CLUB	VALUE
			£ m
CODE	MIDFIELDER NAME	CLUB	VALUE
			£ m
CODE	MIDFIELDER NAME	CLUB	VALUE
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CODE	MIDFIELDER NAME	CLUB	VALUE
			£ m
CODE	MIDFIELDER NAME	CLUB	VALUE
			£ m
CODE	FORWARD NAME	CLUB	VALUE
			£ m
CODE	FORWARD NAME	CLUB	VALUE
			£ m

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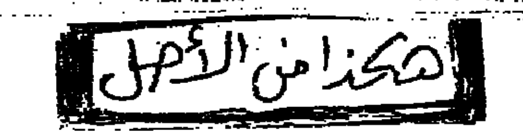
102	D Seaman	ARS	0	37	3.7
146	A Manninger	ARS	0	12	3.4
139	M Bosnich	AST	0	9	3.2
140	M Oakes	AST	0	1	2.9
144	A Rachel	AST	0	-1	2.6
108	J Filan	BLA	0	-7	2.8
128	A Fettis	BLA	0	6	2.5
127	T Flowers	BLA	0	-3	3.1
104	S Ilic	CHA	0	-11	2.3
105	M Salmon	CHA	0	0	2.2
106	A Petterson	CHA	0	-1	2.2
134	S Royce	CHA	0	10	2.2
137	[illegible]	CHE	0	0	2.9
138	E De Goey	CHE	0	31	3.2
107	S Ogrizovic	COV	0	-1	2.4
117	M Hedman	COV	0	-4	2.6
103	R Hoult	DER	0	4	2.3
153	M Poom	DER	0	6	2.5
112	P Gerrard	EVE	0	0	2.4
114	S Simonsen	EVE	0	0	2.7
118	T Myhre	EVE	0	17	2.8
113	N Martyn	LEE	0	20	3.1
125	P Robinson	LEE	0	4	2.7
123	K Keller	LEI	0	5	2.9
124	P Arphexad	LEI	0	1	2.6
122	B Friedel	LIV	0	-1	3.3
131	D James	LIV	0	3	3.3
116	P Schmeichel	MAN	0	14	4.0
121	R Van Der Gouw	MAN	0	4	3.5
109	M Schwarzer	MID	0	11	2.7
110	B Roberts	MID	0	0	2.4
111	M Beresford	MID	0	-3	2.5
141	S Given	NEW	0	8	3.0
142	L Perez	NEW	0	0	2.7
143	S Harper	NEW	0	2	2.5
119	D Beasant	NOT	0	-24	2.7
120	M Crossley	NOT	0	3	2.6
135	K Pressman	SHE	0	7	2.5
149	M Clarke	SHE	0	0	2.2
150	P Srnicek	SHE	0	5	2.3
147	N Moss	SOU	0	-2	2.2
148	P Jones	SOU	0	-6	2.4
128	I Walker	TOT	0	15	2.8
154	H Segers	TOT	0	0	2.4

FULL BACKS

CENTRE BACKS

MIDFIELDERS

FORWARDS





Classics allow no substitute for breeding

JULIAN MUSCAT



On the level

Infinitely more surprising than Stravinsky's defeat at the Curragh on Sunday was the fact that he ventured to the races at all. Regular Ballydoyle-watchers were astonished that the now-deposed 2,000 Guineas favourite was loosed just 30 minutes into the Irish Flat season, on unfavourable terms and on the soft ground held responsible for his previous defeats.

Nevertheless, loosed he was, which heralds the thought that Stravinsky, who pulled hard at the Curragh, lacked something from his diet of regular homework. The colt may have needed the rigours of a race to temper a natural exuberance already interpreted by some as a lack of courage. Once again, however, we are into the realms of supposition — much as we were last week, when assessing the relevance of early-season work on Newmarket Heath.

What, then, do we make of Stravinsky, a colt who has mesmerised a Ballydoyle clan reared on the brilliance of Nijinsky, The Minstrel, Golden Fleece, El Gran Senor and, among other champions too numerous to mention, the exotic but porcelain-limbed King Of Kings just 12 months ago? Stravinsky certainly embodies the intrigue of a new season: is he a king or a regally-dressed impostor, destined to hang on the day of his disrobement?

And yet, within these perplexing shifts rests a more accurate in measurement than even the formbook. It endorses the visual impression created by Stravinsky in the passage of his last three defeats. On each occasion Stravinsky has advanced on the leaders with stealth. He has engaged them with menace. And then he has faltered. On each occasion he raced over seven furlongs; on each occasion he has barely lasted the trip.

As much can be gleaned from Stravinsky's pedigree. In an age increasingly governed by the psycho-analysis of ones genes, it is remarkable that a thoroughbred's pedigree remains the last point of reference for many of the game's pundits. Stravinsky is by Nureyev, a primary speed influence, from a female family more firmly rooted in that domain. While his dam, Fire The Groom, stayed a mile in Europe, she is a half-sister to Dowsing, a group one winner over six furlongs. The inference is clear for those holding Stravinsky tickets for the 2,000 Guineas. Tear them up. Shred them. Resolve instead to redeem your losses in the six-furlong July Cup.

Mind you, Stravinsky may well face formidable opposition in that Newmarket sprint from another widely-touted 2,000 Guineas candidate in Enrique. This colt finished fourth, with Stravinsky a place ahead of him, in the Dewhurst Stakes over seven furlongs. He is by Barathea — who showed enough speed to merit a run in the July Cup — out of Gwydion, a juvenile group winner over five furlongs and a talented sprinter at three. Given this blend, it will be surprising in the extreme if Enrique stays a mile well enough to win a classic.

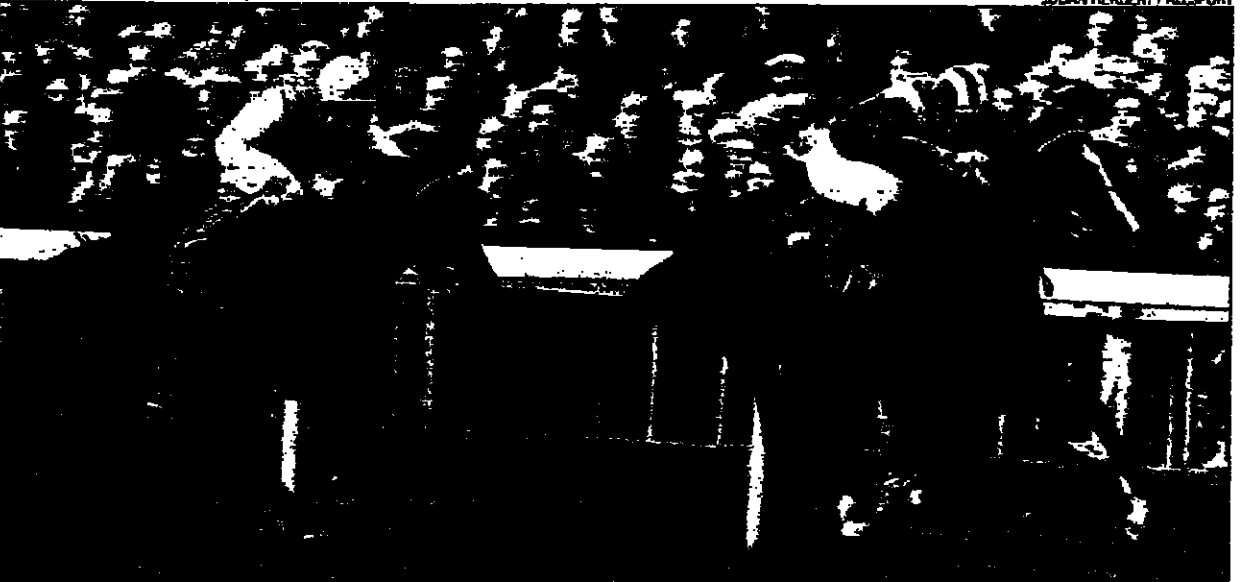
Less concrete doubts — but doubts nonetheless — surround the stamina of Mujahid, the champion juvenile who routed the glamorous Dewhurst field. This one is by Danzig, another speed source, out of Elrafah Ah, who never won beyond six furlongs herself. But don't take my word for it: heed those of her owner-breeder, Sheikh Hamdan Al-Maktoum, who amplified the concern in the wake of Mujahid's triumph. And while we are feeling bullish, let's also dismiss the Guineas-winning claims of Auction House, the Dewhurst second whose pedigree falls short of the standard generally associated with winners of the Newmarket Classic.

That's settled, then. In the quest for the 2,000 Guineas winner, I'm ditching the Dewhurst with the dishwater. One of my rejects might have made uncommon improvement over the winter to overcome the doubt. The unlikely combination of lightning-fast ground and a slow pace might also undermine the argument. At the present odds, however, I'm happy to take that chance.

One other thing: don't expect to glean too much from the imminent trials, which won't remotely resemble the cut-and-thrust of a classic. Remember Xaar in the Craven last year? He narrowly mastered Gulland to precipitate a stampede for the latter's Derby odds before he himself galloped into anonymity.

It is a tedious business counting down the days to the first meaningful action of the Flat season. Tediousness leads to boredom, which leads to whimsical follies with your betting account. At this stage in the looking-glass war, the thoroughbreds' ancestral traits are all we really have. They should be cherished, not overlooked.

JULIAN HERBERT / ALLSPORT



Mujahid, ante-post favourite for the 2,000 Guineas, leads home Auction House in the Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket

Godolphin maps out new set of objectives

FROM CHRIS MCGRATH IN DUBAI

ALMUTAWAKEL, the brave winner of the fourth Dubai World Cup at Nad al Sheba, will be campaigned this season with the Breeders' Cup Classic in mind. "We'll work backwards from that," Simon Crisford, racing manager to Godolphin, said yesterday.

"He gave everything on Sunday so we'll take it steady before deciding the best races for him to take in along the way." Altibr, the winner of the Dubai Duty Free, goes for the Lockinge Stakes at Newbury.

Silver Charm, the defending champion who finished sixth, and High-Rise, last, failed to ignite the first meeting of Derby and Kentucky Derby winners since 1923.

Silver Charm bled whereas High-Rise, switching to dirt and dropped in trip, needed everything to go right from stall one. "He was never at the races, beaten by the draw," Crisford said. "But we hope he'll recapture last year's form back on turf and will aim him towards the Coronation Cup."

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Nottingham

Going: good to soft (soft in places)

2.10 (1m 54yd) 1, **Forty Forte** (T Quinn, 13-8 fav); 2, Sounds Cool (16-1); 3, Needwood Maestro (14-1). 11 ran. 15l, 2½l. M Channon. Tote: £2.40; £1.40, £6.10, £5.10. DF: £42.70. CSF: £32.16.

2.40 (1m 54yd) 1, **Grand Maitre** (T Quinn, 3-1); 2, Algunnaas (4-5 fav); 3, Barrister (9-1). 10 ran. 7l, 1½l. J Dunlop. Tote: £4.80; £1.90, £1.10, £2.20. DF: £3.00. CSF: £5.34.

3.10 (1m 54yd) 1, **Balaax** (T Quinn, 4-7 fav; Rob Wright's nap); 2, Prince Slayer (3-1); 3, Kent (100-1). 9 ran. 1½l, 8l. J Dunlop. Tote: £1.40; £1.10, £1.10, £8.50. DF: £1.70. CSF: £2.00.

3.40 (6f 15yd) 1, **Lively Lady** (L Dettori, 8-1); 2, Moocha Cha Man (12-1); 3, Bundy (20-1); 4, Risky Valentine (20-1). Ashover Amber 11-2 fav. 18 ran. ¾l, 1½l. J Jenkins. Tote: £4.40; £1.30, £5.60, £11.80, £2.60. DF: £43.80. CSF: £84.27. Tricast: £1,307.37.

4.10 (6f 15yd) 1, **Frederick James** (L Dettori, 14-1); 2, Pleading (4-1 fav); 3, Mike's Double (10-1); 4, Black Amy (20-1). 20 ran. 2½l, nk. H Haynes. Tote: £38.50; £5.80, £1.90, £1.90, £2.40. DF: £98.30. CSF: £82.58. Tricast: £584.54.

4.40 (1m 1f 213yd) 1, **Swift** (Martin Dwyer, 6-1); 2, Puzzlement (20-1); 3, Kennet (20-1). 14 ran. 5l, sh hd. M Polglase. Tote: £5.20; £2.30, £3.70, £5.90. DF: £34.40. CSF: £116.79. Tricast: £2,078.09.

5.10 (1m 6f 15yd) 1, **Robellita** (J Stack, 4-1 fav); 2, Nikita's Star (16-1); 3, Golden Ace (25-1); 4, Brandon Court (13-2). 18 ran. ½l, 5l. B Smart. Tote: £6.00; £1.60, £4.60, £1.70, £2.20. DF: £38.80. CSF: £64.48. Tricast: £1,378.49.

Jackpot: £31,586.50.

Placepot: £85.00. **Quadpot:** £59.60.

Hamilton Park

Going: heavy

2.25 (5f 4yd) 1, **Saffizz** (J Fortune, 13-2); 2, Hamyena (5-2 fav); 3, Gain Time (7-1). 7 ran. ¾l, 3l. K Ryan. Tote: £9.00; £3.10, £1.70. DF: £11.40. CSF: £17.01.

2.50 (6f 5yd) 1, **Sharp Edge Boy** (S Sanders, 25-1); 2, So Willing (4-1 fav); 3, Came Pooter (5-1). 12 ran. 1l, sh hd. E Alston. Tote: £22.70; £4.20, £2.20, £2.00. DF: £87.60. CSF: £108.71. Tricast: £558.70.

3.20 (1m 1f 36yd) 1, **Key To The City** (T Lucas, 13-8 fav); 2, Tarradale (5-1); 3, Ruby Bear (20-1). 7 ran. 1l, 8l. P Eccles. Tote: £2.10; £1.60, £2.10. DF: £5.30. CSF: £8.35.

3.50 (1m 65yd) 1, **Ribble Assembly** (D Glennon, 10-1); 2, Nany's Affair (evens fav); 3, Adobe (50-1). 7 ran. 8l, ½l. K Ryan. Tote: £10.10; £2.00, £1.20. DF: £5.00. CSF: £18.75.

4.20 (1m 3f 16yd) 1, **The Butterwick Kid** (R Winston, 6-1); 2, Mr Fortywinks (11-4 fav); 3, Flower O'Cannie (8-1). 9 ran. 2l, sh hd. R Fahey. Tote: £5.80; £1.80, £2.10, £1.50. DF: £19.00. Trifecta: £184.80. CSF: £21.52. Tricast: £96.49.

4.50 (1m 4f 17yd) 1, **Prince Nicholas** (Dean McKeown, 5-4 fav); 2, Clued Up (9-2); 3, Repton (7-1). 10 ran. 5l, 3l. K Hogg. Tote: £2.20; £1.10, £2.00, £2.40. DF: £6.30. CSF: £6.13. Tricast: £26.73.

Placepot: £13.70. **Quadpot:** £3.30.

Hexham

Going: good (good to soft in places)

2.00 (2m hdle) 1, **Plenty Courage** (B Storey, 4-11 fav); 2, Loose Cannon (9-2); 3, Unbecky (14-1). 8 ran. ½l, 5l. F Storey. Tote: £1.20; £1.10, £1.10, £1.10. DF: £2.10. CSF: £2.24.

2.30 (3m 1f ch) 1, **Howyoudoing** (Mr R Forristal, 12-1); 2, Titan Thai (14-1); 3, Brownrath King (12-1); 4, Corbleu (14-1). Plumbob 11-4 fav. 16 ran. 1¼l, 6l. S Kettlewell. Tote: £13.70; £2.30, £2.30, £2.80, £2.70. DF: £84.10. CSF: £151.81. Tricast: £1,920.40.

3.00 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, **Charlie Banker** (S Kelly, 5-2 fav); 2, Glacial Dancer (11-2); 3, Ceius (12-1); 4, Helmsley Flier (12-1). 18 ran. Nk, 7l. K Burke. Tote: £3.30; £1.40, £1.30, £2.70, £2.40. DF: £15.60. CSF: £15.43. Tricast: £140.17.

3.30 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, **Crystal Gift** (I Jardine, 4-1); 2, Double Agent (6-1); 3, King Pin (4-1). Mary's Feelings 9-4 fav. 8 ran. 1¼l, 6l. A Whillans. Tote: £5.20; £1.70, £2.10, £1.80. DF: £12.40. CSF: £25.67. Tricast: £91.99.

4.00 (2m 110yd ch) 1, **Queens Brigade** (B Storey, 9-1); 2, Specialize (8-1); 3, Amlwch (5-1). Scotia Nostra (5th) 8-11 fav. 11 ran. 12l, 3l. J Walton. Tote: £8.70; £1.10, £2.20, £1.80. DF: £17.00. CSF: £67.90.

4.30 (2m hdle) 1, **Erinny** (S Kelly, 6-1); 2, First In The Field (20-1); 3, Tennessee King (15-8 fav). 6 ran. NR: Alpine Hideaway, Barrelbio. 3l, 20l. J Quinn. Tote: £8.20; £2.00, £13.10. DF: £54.80. CSF: £78.55. Tricast: £280.31.

5.00 (2m flat) 1, **Fishki's Lad** (N Horrocks, 10-1); 2, Weaver Sam (5-1); 3, French Willow (10-1). Wynyard Dancer 2-1 fav. 21 ran. ½l, nk. M Hammond. Tote: £14.30; £3.60, £3.00, £3.70. DF: £43.60. CSF: £65.39.

Placepot: £626.40. **Quadpot:** £81.60.

☐ Frankie Dettori got his domestic season off to a flying start with a 141-1 double at Nottingham yesterday. Dettori had a couple of disappointing rides before opening his account on Lively Lady and quickly following up on Frederick James, who gave trainer Ted Haynes his first winner on the Flat.

NEWCASTLE

ROB WRIGHT

2.15 Roman Emperor	3.55 **FLAT TOP** (nap)
2.45 High Pyrenees	4.25 Little Amin
3.20 **Young Bigwig** (nb)	5.00 Old Hush Wing

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.45 **RYALUX**.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 4.25 **PLUTOCRAT** (nap).

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

DRAW: 5F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.15 EBF MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,009: 5f) (6 runners)

101	(1)		HAPPY TIMES (B Bargh & J Walsh) M W Easterby 9-0	T Lucas	–
102	(2)		KINGSTON BILL (Miss C Overton) W G M Turner 9-0	T Sprake	–
103	(5)		RED SUN (Shine Racing) J Berry 9-0	G Carter	–
104	(6)		ROMAN EMPEROR (I Bray) M W Easterby 9-0	G Parkin	–
105	(4)	0	FOREST QUEEN 5 (P Cooper) K Hogg 8-9	L Charnock	[illegible]
106	(3)		KASHRA (K Towey) M Johnston 8-9	D Holland	–

BETTING: 7-4 Kashra, 2-1 Red Sun, 5-1 Kingston Bill, Happy Times, 14-1 Roman Emperor, 25-1 Forest Queen.

1998: SPEEDY JAMES 9-0 G Carter (Evens fav) J Berry 7 ran

Jack Berry won this last year and Red Sun will make a bold attempt to follow up. However, Mark Johnston can be expected to have his share of early two-year-old winners and slight preference is for KASHRA, by the sprinter Dancing Dissident. Kingston Bill, also from a yard which likes to get its horses ready early, makes more appeal than Happy Times and Roman Emperor, whose stable's two-year-olds generally need an outing. Forest Queen was well beaten at Doncaster last week.

2.45 NORTHERN RACING NOVICES HURDLE (£2,253: 2m 4f) (11 runners)

201	4-P5	BUCKSKIN BOY 19 (J House) C Grant 7-11-0	R Supple	15
202	R6D-RD	GUS CUNNINGHAM 10 (S) (M Reveley Racing Club) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-0	P Niven	72
203	602	HIGH PYRENEES 10 (J Stephenson) F Murphy 7-11-0	A Maguire	97
204	5	INDIAN GUNNER 66 (J & J Richards) N Richards 6-11-0	A Dobbin	–
205	04P/0-	NOT GUILTY 503 (D Alder) D Alder 7-11-0	S Durack	–
206	/0P-PP	PACIFIC WAR 57 (H Grant) J Dodds 10-11-0	S Melrose (7)	–
207	P	PURSUIVANT 188 (A Peake) M Hammond 5-11-0	D Bentley	–
208	1U6F-P	RUNNING MOSS 87 (S) (Mrs A Mactaggart) A Mactaggart 7-11-0	Mr C Storey	–
209	22	RYALUX 32 (Paisley Yarn Dyeing Ltd) M Hammond 6-11-0	B Harding	[illegible]
210	P0	ICEFIRE DANCER 14 (N Mason) N Mason 6-10-9	G F Ryan (3)	–
211	0P36	SIMLET 10 (E Tuer) E W Tuer 4-10-5	K Johnson	61

BETTING: 2-1 High Pyrenees, 9-4 Ryalux, 11-2 Simlet, 6-1 Gus Cunningham, 16-1 Pursuivant, 20-1 others.

1998: JOE BUZZ 6-11-7 P Carberry (11-2) F Murphy 14 ran

RYALUX had plenty on his plate when 12l second to Back On The Lash at Market Rasen last time (2m 3f), a fair effort against an improving type (Icefire Dancer well behind). High Pyrenees, from last year's winning stable, is a lively alternative on his 1½l second to Cantex Capers (2m) here last time (Gus Cunningham well held) and the step up in trip may bring some improvement. Simlet was a fair third to the useful Albrighton at Musselburgh (2m) on his penultimate start but then disappointed on a softer surface at Market Rasen. The soft going puts a question mark against him here. Indian Gunner was beaten 21l in a National Hunt flat race at Haydock on his only start.

3.20 CORAL SPRINT (SHOWCASE HANDICAP)

(£7,003: 5f) (16 runners)

301	(5)	0200-0	GREY KINGDOM 4 (F,G,S) (M Brittain) M Brittain 8-10-0	D Mernagh (5)	87
302	(10)	22005-	GAY BREEZE 185 (D,F,G,S) (J Flynn) P Felgate 6-9-12	S Righton (7)	85
303	(15)	40563-	MUNGO PARK 162 (BF,CD,F,G,S) (Mrs H Carr) M Dods 5-9-11	J Weaver	91
304	(11)	12310-	CARTMEL PARK 194 (CD,F,G) (P Airey & R Whitton) J Berry 3-9-4	G Carter	74
305	(14)	15353-	NORTHERN SVENGALI 94 (D,F,S) (T Cox) T Barron 3-9-4	O Pears	74
306	(6)	00003-	GORETSKI 144 (D,F,G,S) (P Savill) N Tinkler 6-9-4	J Carroll	99
307	(3)	0-2055	YOUNG BIGWIG 46 (D,F,S) (D Chapman) D Chapman 5-9-0	A Culhane	104
308	(12)	250-33	UNSHAKEN 52 (D,G,S) (G Sanderson, M Twentyman) E Alston 5-9-0	K Fallon	98
309	(1)	352112	MAITEAMIA 20 (B,BF,D,G,S) (Mrs Z Grant) S Bowring 6-8-8	J Quinn	103
310	(2)	54550-	ROSE'S TREASURE 199 (V,D,S) (J Kee) B Rothwell 3-8-7	M Fenton	93
311	(9)	152213	NIFTY NORMAN 8 (D,G,S) (Nifty Norman Partners) D Nicholls 5-8-7	F Norton	97
312	(4)	10-113	TOM TUN 32 (BF,C,D,F) (Mrs D Tunstall) Miss J Craze 4-8-5	T Williams	104
313	(16)	53020-	SOUPERFICIAL 151 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs Cawley) Enrico Incisa 8-8-0	Kim Tinkler	95
314	(13)	4d260-	SEALED BY FATE 195 (V) (H Harrison) J Wainwright 4-7-12	J McAuley (7)	84
315	(7)	221130	MUKARRAB 17 (D,G) (I Armitage) D Chapman 5-7-11	L Charnock	[illegible]
316	(8)	10-026	SILK COTTAGE 20 (B,D,F) (Mrs W Walmsley) R Bastiman 7-7-10	P Fessey	91

BETTING: 4-1 Tom Tun, 6-1 Maiteamia, Unshaken, Nifty Norman, 8-1 Mukarrab, 10-1 Mungo Park, 12-1 Goretski, Gay Breeze, 16-1 others.

1998: WESTCOURT MAGIC 5-8-13 L Charnock (13-2) M W Easterby 13 ran



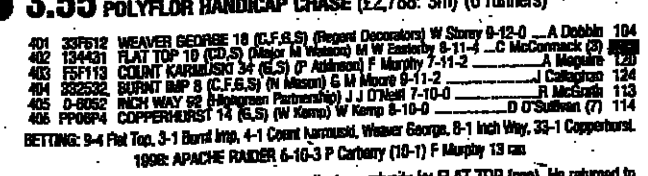
Grey Kingdom, Gay Breeze, Goretski, Maiteamia, Nifty Norman and Mukarrab all like to blaze from the off, and may set the race up for a more patiently ridden rival. Tom Tun finished 2½ lengths third to Maiteamia at Southwell last time, and has sound claims of reversing the form on a stone better terms. Young Bigwig will be fit from the all-weather and is fairly handicapped, but his poor strike-rate is off-putting and preference is for MUNGO PARK. Runner-up in this race last year, and subsequently a dual course and distance winner, he looks sure to give backers a run for their money. Silk Cottage, another whose fitness is assured, cannot be ruled out, along with Unshaken, for whom Kieren Fallon is an eye-catching booking.

3.55 POLYFLOR HANDICAP CHASE (£2,788: 3m) (6 runners)

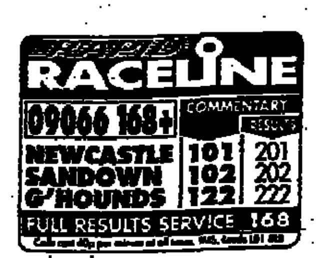
401	33F612	WEAVER GEORGE 18 (C,F,G,S) (Regent Decorators) W Storey 9-12-0	A Dobbin	104
402	134431	FLAT TOP 10 (CD,S) (Major M Watson) M W Easterby 8-11-4	C McCormack (3)	[illegible]
403	F5F113	COUNT KARMUSKI 34 (G,S) (P Atkinson) F Murphy 7-11-2	A Maguire	120
404	332532	BURNT IMP 8 (C,F,G,S) (N Mason) G M Moore 9-11-2	J Callaghan	124
405	0-6052	INCH WAY 92 (Hipgreen Partnership) J J O'Neill 7-10-0	R McGrath	113
406	PP06P4	COPPERHURST 14 (G,S) (W Kemp) W Kemp 8-10-0	D O'Sullivan (7)	114

BETTING: 9-4 Flat Top, 3-1 Burnt Imp, 4-1 Count Karmuski, Weaver George, 8-1 Inch Way, 33-1 Copperhurst.

1998: APACHE RAIDER 6-10-3 P Carberry (10-1) F Murphy 13 ran



An excellent opportunity for FLAT TOP (nap). He returned to form over course and distance ten days ago, beating Jymjam Johnny by 16 lengths. He goes on this ground and, significantly, stays the trip well. There are serious doubts on that score about Weaver George, an emphatic course winner over 2½ miles on his penultimate start, and Count Karmuski, whose form is all up to 2m 3l. The latter is still relatively unexposed, though, and were he to stay would offer a threat. Burnt Imp, regularly finds one or two too good, while Inch Way and Copperhurst make limited appeal.



SPECIALISTS

NEWCASTLE: Flat: Trainers: M Johnston, 25 winners from 151 runners, 16.6%; R Fahey, 5 from 33, 15.2%; J Berry, 17 from 123, 13.8%; D Smith, 5 from 44, 11.4%; J Bethell, 4 from 40, 10.0%.

Jockeys: L Dettori, 8 winners from 31 rides, 25.8%; D Holland, 15 from 78, 19.2%; J Weaver, 23 from 127, 18.1%; K Fallon, 18 from 115, 15.7%.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD-TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall ....9-10-0 B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F - fell. P - pulled up. U - unseated rider. B - brought down. S - slipped up. R - refused. D - disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps. (B - blinkers. V - visor. H - hood. E - Eyeshield. C - course winner. D - distance winner. CD course and distance winner. BF - beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F - firm, good to firm, hard. G - good. S - soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

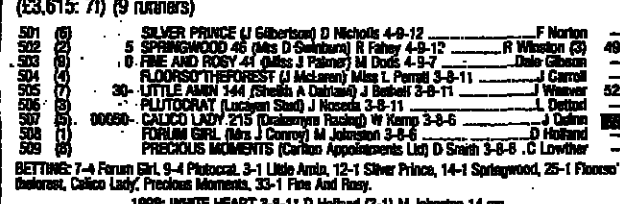
4.25 RAMSIDE EVENT CATERING MAIDEN STAKES

(£3,615: 7f) (9 runners)

501	(6)		SILVER PRINCE (J Gilbertson) D Nicholls 4-9-12	F Norton	–
502	(2)	5	SPRINGWOOD 46 (Mrs D Swinburn) R Fahey 4-9-12	R Winston (3)	49
503	(9)	0	FINE AND ROSY 41 (Miss J Palmer) M Dods 4-9-7	Dale Gibson	–
504	(4)		FLOORSOTHEFOREST (J McLaren) Miss L Perratt 3-8-11	J Carroll	–
505	(7)	30-	LITTLE AMIN 144 (Sheikh A Dalrawi) J Bethell 3-8-11	J Weaver	52
506	(3)		PLUTOCRAT (Lucayan Stud) J Noseda 3-8-11	L Dettori	–
507	(5)	00050-	CALICO LADY 215 (Drakemyre Racing) W Kemp 3-8-6	J Quinn	[illegible]
508	(1)		FORUM GIRL (Mrs J Conroy) M Johnston 3-8-6	D Holland	–
509	(8)		PRECIOUS MOMENTS (Carlton Appointments Ltd) D Smith 3-8-6	C Lowther	–

BETTING: 7-4 Forum Girl, 9-4 Plutocrat, 3-1 Little Amin, 12-1 Silver Prince, 14-1 Springwood, 25-1 Floorsotheforest, Calico Lady, Precious Moments, 33-1 Fine And Rosy.

1998: WHITE HEART 3-8-11 D Holland (3-1) M Johnston 14 ran



Plutocrat, with Dettori on board, will attract plenty of attention but there is no word to suggest he is out of the ordinary. There may be better value to be had with another newcomer, Forum Girl, by the high-class sprinter Sheikh Albadou. Springwood showed some ability when 7¼l 6th to Kentucky Bullet on the all-weather at Southwell (7f) and, while that was a modest race, he may improve a little. However, the answer could be LITTLE AMIN. He offered plenty of encouragement in two starts over six furlongs last term and there is every reason to believe that he will improve for this step up in trip.

5.00 ST MODWEN HANDICAP (£2,572: 2m 19yd) (11 runners)

601	(1)	13240-	CINDER HILLS 17J (S) (I Bray) M W Easterby 4-9-10	J Quinn	71
602	(2)	/5/06/	CAMPAIGN 108J (F) (Spectrum) M Hammond 8-9-6	K Fallon	–
603	(5)	05-141	QUEZON CITY 22 (D,F) (Middleham Park) Miss J Camacho 5-9-4	L Charnock	56
604	(7)	02100-	GIVE AN INCH 175 (F,S) (Black Type Racing) W Storey 4-9-2	T Williams	78
605	(4)	0514U-	SWIFTWAY 74J (D,G) (A White) K Hogg 5-8-10	Dean McKeown	69
606	(10)	60358-	HIGHFIELD FIZZ 210 (D,S) (Mrs Taylor-Garthwaite) C Fairhurst 7-8-7	D Holland	83
607	(11)	04816-	BATOUTOFTHEBLUE 176 (F) (Mrs I Gibson) W Haigh 6-8-5	T Sprake	[illegible]
608	(6)	525-32	OLD HUSH WING 46 (F) (Mark Barrett Racing) Mrs M Reveley 6-8-5	A Culhane	74
609	(8)	0333-6	BLACK ICE BOY 39 (V,D,F,S) (Mrs J Marshall) R Bastiman 8-8-4	C Cogan (7)	74
610	(3)	50/04-	RANGER SLOANE 18J (D,G) (G Fierro) G Fierro 7-8-3	A Mackay	–
611	(9)	0/050-	KEPHREN 98 (D,F,G) (P Saunders) P Burgoyne 10-7-11	F Norton	41

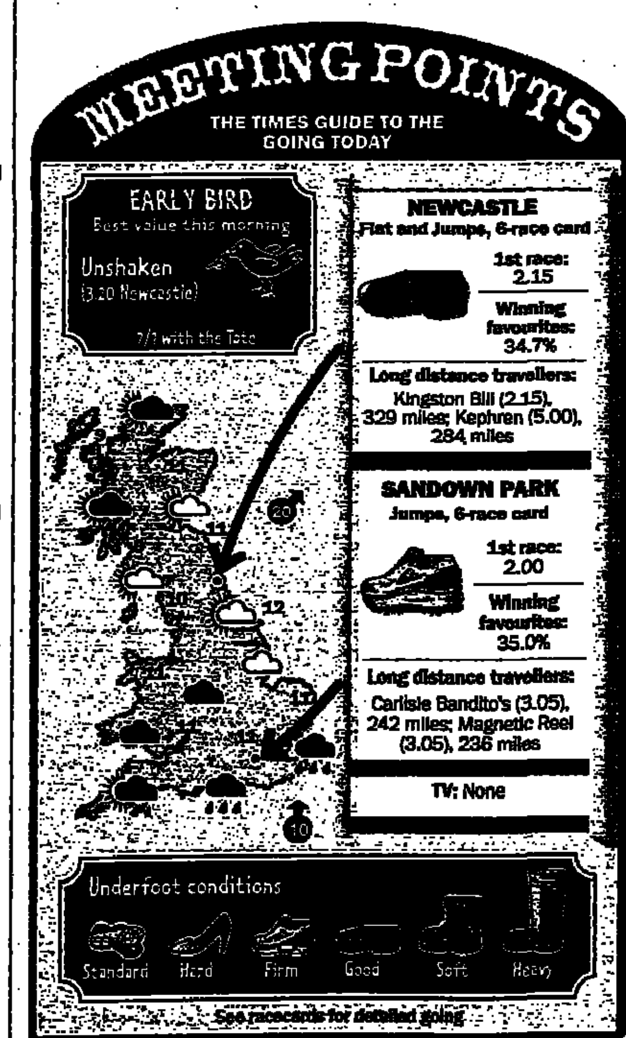
BETTING: 7-2 Quezon City, 4-1 Old Hush Wing, 11-2 Batoutoftheblue, 7-1 Swiftway, 8-1 Give An Inch, Highfield Fizz, 10-1 Cinder Hills, 12-1 Campaign, Ranger Sloane, 14-1 others.

1998: OUTSET 8-10-0 J Carroll (3-1 fav) M Hammond 15 ran



Quezon City was in excellent form on the all-weather at Southwell, his only defeat in three starts coming when chasing too fast a pace and finishing only fourth. If he can continue that form on turf he will not easily be beaten. However, there are no doubts about CINDER HILLS' ability to handle this ground and, kept fit over hurdles during the winter, she should go well. She showed progressive form over 1½ miles on soft ground last year and was also a good second over 1¾m. This step up in trip is unlikely to be beyond her. Old Hush Wing has won over hurdles this season but the balance of his form is modest these days, while Campaign has been out of sorts over hurdles and a return to his best must be very much taken on trust. Other more likely options, such as Give An Inch, Swiftway, Highfield Fizz and Batoutoftheblue, all have lengthy absences to overcome.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Sandown Park: 3.05 Archies Oats, Spuffington.



SANDOWN PARK

ROB WRIGHT

2.00 Dines	3.40 Linton Rocks
2.30 Irbee	4.10 Distant Echo
3.05 Court Melody	4.45 Reign Dance

Carl Evans: 4.45 King Torus.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

2.00 SUMMIT CONFERENCES & MEETINGS NOVICES CHASE (£3,813: 2m) (3 runners)

1	1222	DINES 12 (CD,F,G,S) P Nicholls 7-11-10	J Tizzard	[illegible]
2	44U1	CIRCUS STAR 35 (D,G,S) D Nicholson 6-11-6	R Johnson	119
3	-430	MISSED CALL 61 M Tompkins 7-11-2	G Bradley	–

1-2 Dines, 7-4 Circus Star, 20-1 Missed Call.

2.30 MOUSETRAP CHALLENGE CUP NOVICES CHASE (£3,636: 2m 4f 110yd) (4)

1	F211	IRBEE 10 (D,G,S) P Nicholls 7-11-8	J Tizzard	[illegible]
2	61F1	PRIDE OF THE SWORD 199 (D,G) M Jarvis 6-11-8	B Storey	–
3	4233	BARHALE BOY 80 (S) T Casey 7-11-0	A Thornton	118
4	02FP	TAKE COVER 11 (S) M Tompkins 8-11-0	G Bradley	117

2-9 Irbee, 13-2 Pride Of The Sword, 10-1 Barhale Boy, 14-1 Take Cover.

3.05 ROYAL ARTILLERY GOLD CUP CHASE (Amateurs: £3,760: 3m 110yd) (8)

1	2RR1	COURT MELODY 18 (B,CD,G,S) P Nicholls 11-12-10	D Alers-Hankey (3)	[illegible]
2	6-34	ARCHIES OATS 17 (B,C,D,G,S) J Trice-Rolph 10-12-5	J Trice-Rolph (3)	69
3	24-2	BRAES OF MAR 18 (CD,G) N Henderson 9-12-5	S Robinson (7)	60
4	1-FP	MAGNETIC REEL 81 (CD,F,G,S) H Lavis 8-12-5	O Ellwood (3)	52
5	1234	WILLCHRIS 173 (D,F,G,S) P Riddick 12-12-5	B Durrell (7)	99
6	3-0P	SPUFFINGTON 25 (B,G,S) N Pomfret 11-12-0	J Turcan (7)	59
7	3422	CARLISLE BANDITO'S 25 (F,G) J Berry 7-11-10	A Michael (7)	101
8	5-U0	CABBERY ROSE 15 (D,F,S) P Southcombe 11-11-9	Miss W Southcombe (7)	81

4-6 Court Melody, 11-4 Braes Of Mar, 11-2 Carlisle Bandito's, 16-1 others.

3.40 ALANBROOKE MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (£5,654: 3m 110yd) (6)

1	12F3	LINTON ROCKS 19 (D,F,G,S) P Nicholls 10-11-10	J Tizzard	133
2	PPF1	RAMALLAH 54 (G,S) Miss H Knight 10-11-7	M A Fitzgerald	131
3	/F1-	GOD SPEED YOU 495 (B,D,F,G,S) C Morlock 10-11-6	J R Kavanagh	–
4	3142	SHARP COMMAND 17 (D,F,G,S) P Eccles 6-11-1	S Kelly (5)	123
5	5422	ALLER MOOR 115 (D,F,G,S) R Alner 8-11-0	A Thornton	[illegible]
6	3-5R	VICOSA 146 (D,F,S) R Alner 10-11-0	R Johnson	–

2-1 Sharp Command, 11-4 Aller Moor, 3-1 Linton Rocks, 9-2 others.

4.10 ROYAL STAR AND GARTER HOME HANDICAP CHASE (£4,401: 2m) (3)

1	1135	XAIPETE 11 (D,F,G,S) N Mason 7-11-10	H Oliver (5)	100
2	33F2	DISTANT ECHO 18 (BF,D,F,G) P Nicholls 9-11-10	J Tizzard	[illegible]
3	/0P4	PLUNDER BAY 32 (D,F,S) N Henderson 8-11-0	M A Fitzgerald	57

10-11 Distant Echo, 6-4 Xaipete, 11-2 Plunder Bay.

4.45 UBIQUE HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,940: 2m 4f 110yd) (8)

1	-630	KING TORUS 12 (F,G,S) V Dartnall 9-12-3	J Jukes	[illegible]
2	13-4	REIGN DANCE 46 (D,F,S) Mrs D McCarthy 8-12-3	T McCarthy	44
3	050F	RYTON RUN 7 (D,F,G) Mrs S Odell 14-12-3	A Wintle (3)	33
4	21-P	TRUE STEEL 40 (CD,G,S) J Trice-Rolph 13-12-3	J Trice-Rolph (3)	45
5	-6P5	DE JORDAAN 17 (F,G) K Tork 12-11-13	G Wheeler (7)	–
6	/32P	MARCHING MARQUIS 13 (BF,D,F,S) G Brown 8-11-13	T Gibney (3)	61
7	-PRU	QUICK SILVER BOY 10P P Riddick 9-11-13	B Durrell (7)	–
8	385P	SILVERFORT LAD 23P (B,G,S) J Honeyball 10-11-13	A Honeyball (7)	36

5-4 Marching Marquis, 5-2 King Torus, 9-2 True Steel, 6-1 Reign Dance, 20-1 Silverfort Lad, 33-1 De Jordaan, Quick Silver Boy, 50-1 Ryton Run.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: P Nicholls, 13 winners from 41 runners, 31.7%; D Nicholson, 18 from 94, 19.1%; Miss H Knight, 10 from 60, 16.7%; N Henderson, 16 from 106, 15.1%. Only qualifiers.

JOCKEYS: O Ellwood, 8 winners from 21 rides, 38.1%; J Trice-Rolph, 4 from 17, 23.5%; R Johnson, 9 from 54, 16.7%; M Fitzgerald, 18 from 124, 14.5%; G Bradley, 9 from 82, 11.0%; A Thornton, 3 from 29, 10.3%.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The first Camrose encounter between England and the Republic of Ireland since 1951 took place this January in Ennis. England won the first two 30-board matches 18-2 and 13-7 in victory points, but the resilient Irish pegged back a lead of more than 30 IMPs to draw the last match 10-10 and save a little pride. This board presented a further opportunity in the final set.

Dealer South E-W game IMPs

West	North	East
	♠ 7 6 4 ♡ K 8 3 ♢ K Q 6 5 3 ♣ A 3	
♠ J 8 3 ♡ Q J 10 7 4 ♢ J ♣ Q 9 8 7	N / W E / S	♠ Q 9 5 2 ♡ A 9 5 ♢ 9 4 2 ♣ 10 5 4
	♠ A K 10 ♡ 6 2 ♢ A 10 8 7 ♣ K J 6 2	

Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: queen of hearts.

The Irish North-South bid 1NT–3NT. Declarer ducked the first heart which cost nothing, and West continued with the jack. Now declarer has to decide whether West started with his actual holding, in which case it is right to hold off to block the suit, or A-Q-J-x-x-(x) when he has to rise with the king. The unlikely holding of Q-J-10 trebleton also favours playing the king, while Q-J doubleton favours playing low. Other holdings are immaterial. This is a close decision and in practice South's nostrils advised him to put the king up: one down.

The English North-South reached Three No-Trumps from the same side after an opening bid of One Diamond by South. Over this West would probably have joined in with One Heart holding five or six to the ace-queen-jack, even with next to nothing outside. This inference was lost on our declarer who also blithely put up the king on the second round for the same result and a flat board.

The fourth and final round of Camrose matches were played at the weekend. England (Joe Fawcett, Glyn Liggins, Brian Senior, Dave Kendrick, Tom Townsend, David Price) travelled to Northern Ireland where they trounced the home team 56-4. Scotland beat Ireland 35-25, while Wales had a bye. These results leave England clear winners with a total score of 171, well ahead of runners-up Scotland on 126.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

World record

As reported yesterday, Murugan Thiruchelvam, aged 10, has become the youngest player ever to beat a grandmaster. Here is that game with the crosstable of the match below.

White: Jonathan Levitt

Black: Murugan Thiruchelvam

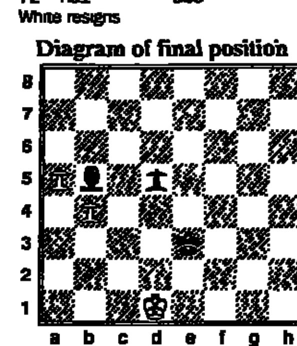
London 1999

Queen's Gambit Declined

1	d4	d5
2	c4	e6
3	Nc3	Nf6
4	Bg5	Bb4
5	cxd5	exd5
6	e3	0-0
7	Bd3	h6
8	Bh4	Be6
9	Nge2	Nbd7
10	Qc2	c5
11	dxc5	Nxc5
12	0-0	Rc8
13	Rfd1	Bxc3
14	Nxc3	g5
15	Bg3	Nfe4
16	Be5	f6
17	Bd4	Nxd3
18	Qxd3	Bf5
19	Qb5	Nxc3
20	Bxc3	Be6
21	Qxb7	Rc7
22	Qa6	Qe8
23	Rd2	Qf7
24	Rad1	h5
25	Rd4	Rfc8
26	h4	g4
27	Rf4	f5
28	Qd6	Kh7
29	Qe5	Rc4
30	Rxc4	Rxc4
31	Qh8+	Kg6
32	Be5	Rc8
33	Qxc8	Bxc8
34	Rc1	Bb7
35	Rc7	Qe6
36	Bd4	Ba6
37	Rxa7	Qc6
38	Kh2	Qc4
39	Rg7+	Kh6
40	Rf7	Qd3
41	a4	Bc4
42	Rf6+	Kh7
43	Kg3	Qe4
44	f3	Qc2
45	fxg4	hxg4
46	Kf4	Qe4+
47	Kg5	g3
48	Rf7+	Kg8
49	Rg7+	Kf8
50	Kf6	Qxh4+
51	Ke6	Qh6+
52	Kxf5	Bd3+
53	Kg4	Qh2
54	Ra7	Be2+
55	Kg5	Qh5+
56	Kf6	Qh6+
57	Ke5	Qg5+
58	Kd6	Bf1
59	Ra8+	Kf7
60	Ra7+	Kg8
61	Rg7+	Qxg7
62	Bxg7	Kxg7
63	Ke5	Bxg2
64	Kf4	Kf6
65	Kxg3	Bf1
66	Kf4	Ke6
67	b4	Kd6
68	a5	Bd3
69	Kf3	Ke5
70	Kf2	Ke4
71	Ke1	Kxe3
72	Kd1	Bb5

White resigns

Diagram of final position



CROSSTABLE OF THE LEVITT-THIRUCHELVAM MATCH

	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Levitt	½	½	0	½	1	1	3½
Thiruchelvam	½	½	1	½	0	0	2½

In the above table, 1 represents a win, ½ a draw and 0 a loss.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

TAPNET
a. A fig basket
b. A medieval gratuity
c. A barmaid

UROPYGIAL
a. Broad-based
b. Broad-minded
c. Tail feathers

TOA
a. An extinct bird
b. A hard wood
c. A Javanese plantain

URAUGHT
a. Distraught
b. Performed
c. A chief

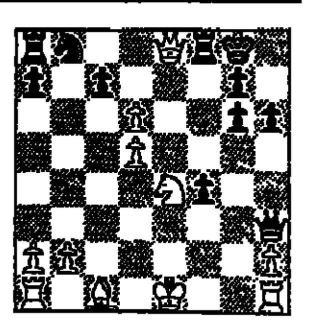
Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Fedorov - Neelakantan, Calcutta 1999.

In this complex position White found a clever way to turn the tide in his favour. How did he continue?



Solution on page 46

Hodgson helps to lower Swiss guard

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

ROY HODGSON has done little since he was dismissed by Blackburn Rovers four months ago. His thoughtful, erudite manner has assured him of plentiful work in the media, but, essentially, he has escaped the pressures of the FA Carling Premiership and attempted to restore some measure of sanity to his life.

Suitably refreshed, Hodgson passed his considered judgment yesterday on the task facing Wales when they take on Switzerland in their European championship qualifying tie in the Letzigrund Stadium in Zurich tomorrow night. As head coach, Hodgson led Switzerland to the finals of the World Cup in 1994 and the European championship in 1996 and he retains a close interest in their fortunes.

Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, and his squad flew out to Zurich yesterday in good heart after successive victories in group one against Denmark and Belarus last year. Yet Hodgson, though personally avoiding the pun, bade them farewell with a clear warning: don't expect the Swiss to roll over.

"Switzerland have had three coaches since I left and, with all the chopping and changing, their results haven't been good," Hodgson said. "The nucleus of the side is virtually the same as the one I left and they have a number of top-class players."

Wales were struggling before they played Denmark and Belarus in quick succession and they had the strength of character to win those games. They have put themselves in with a great chance of reaching the play-offs — they are second behind Italy — but they must make sure that they do not undo all the good work by underestimating the Swiss.

They travelled to Zurich without Ryan Giggs, the Manchester United winger, who is injured. Robbie Savage, the Leicester City midfield player, is doubtful because of the groin strain sustained in the 1-0 defeat against Tottenham Hotspur in the Worthington Cup final.

■ Herbert Prohaska, the Austria coach, resigned yesterday after the 9-0 thrashing by Spain in the Euro 2000 qualifier in Valencia on Saturday.

FOOTBALL

Keegan likely to continue in part-time position

BY MATT DICKINSON AND RUSSELL KEMPSON

FLEET STREET found itself yesterday in the unfamiliar circumstance of campaigning to keep rather than oust an England football coach, but the pleading is likely to be only partially successful. While the Football Association is confident that Kevin Keegan can be persuaded to complete the European championship qualifying campaign, it would almost certainly be as a part-timer.

It is likely to be weeks before negotiations between the FA and Keegan move the situation farther — indeed, it may take until June — but there is a growing sense at Lancaster Gate that the present compromise should be extended until September. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," one senior figure said after the 3-1 victory over Poland on Saturday.

That fudge is believed to be workable because England's final two qualifying matches take place in a five-day period, causing minimum disruption to Keegan and Fulham, where he is chief operating officer. Unlike the other four countries in group five, England's campaign will be concluded in September rather than October, with the fixtures at home to Luxembourg and away to Poland on September 4 and 8.

For now, though, the FA is happy for the pressure to mount on Keegan to accept the job full-time and on a longer-term basis, although there is a belief that he will stay loyal to the Nationwide League second division club for honourable and financial reasons.

The qualifying campaign may yet go awry if England lose at home to Sweden on June 5, in which case Keegan would presumably want to know that he still has ambitions to fulfill at Fulham. If things go well, however, Mohamed Al Fayed, the Fulham chairman, is on the record as saying that he can come to the rescue of his country full-time. Keegan has all the aces and has no reason to play them now.

With four of his Fulham players on international duty — Kit Symons, Paul Trollope and Chris Coleman with Wales and Maik Taylor with Northern Ireland — Keegan excused himself and the remainder of his squad from training yesterday.

Keegan was expected back today to begin preparations for the Nationwide League second division match away to Reading on Easter Monday. True to his word, that his domestic and international roles will not clash, he has decided against travelling to Katowice for Poland's group five European championship qualifying match against Sweden tomorrow night. Instead, Derek Fazackerley, his England assistant, will make the trip and report back.

For Coleman, the Wales defender and Fulham captain, Keegan's impressive start with England has produced mixed feelings. It was Keegan who signed him for £2.1 million from Blackburn Rovers in December 1997, persuading him to drop two divisions, and Keegan who has led the side to the brink of the first division.

"After Mr Al Fayed's remarks and the fact that England got off to such a blistering start under Kevin, we are starting to fear the worst," Coleman said yesterday. "There has to be a bit of doubt, to say the least, that he will stay.

"Kevin is a man of his word and he has said that he will see out the rest of his contract at Fulham, but doubts are creeping into the back of your mind because managing England is such a great job and there is such a public demand for him.

"As a Fulham player, I hope he doesn't get the job. The problem is, there's no one better for England. In the past week, the England lads have had a taste of what we have had since Kevin arrived at the club. He lifted the whole nation, the atmosphere was magical."

Northern Ireland set forward course

FROM GEORGE CAULKIN IN CHISINAU

RIGHTLY or wrongly, the professional footballer is not renowned for the intensity of his intellectual curiosity. There are exceptions, of course. For example, Iain Dowie boasts a degree in mechanical engineering and there are pleasing signs that the player-coach of Queens Park Rangers is passing on his thirst for knowledge to his international team-mates.

The sound of atlases being thumbed was palpable on Saturday night as, fresh from their 3-0 defeat by Germany, Northern Ireland's European championship qualifying group three match with Moldova here tomorrow night took on added significance. If only their inquiries had revealed an obvious route to the opposition goal.

It is this area of the pitch that remains their most telling flaw. Dowie continues to lead the line with indefatigable enthusiasm, but regular goals have never been his forte.

"There are no two ways about it, we've got to win this match," Michael Hughes, the Wimbledon winger, said yesterday. "It's time to go for broke."

The two sides shared four goals in Belfast last November, although the dismissal of Alexandre Curtianu that day robs Moldova of their most influential player. Ion Testimetanu, of Bristol City, is the only other semi-recognisable figure in a technically proficient and hard-working squad, although a 2-0 defeat by Turkey on Saturday leaves them bottom of the table.



Duval celebrates after the chip on the 18th green that ensured victory in the Players Championship and completed a notable family double. Photograph: Peter Cosgrove

Duval's game show helps to boost family fortunes

FROM JOHN HOPKINS GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN PONTE VEDRA BEACH

OLD and Young Tom Morris, the most famous father and son in golf, each won a good few tournaments in their heyday in Victorian Britain and, in this century, Percy and Peter Alliss had their share of success in tournaments and Ryder Cups.

No family, however, has achieved such a striking feat as the Duvals did in Florida on Sunday afternoon, when Bob won his first title on the senior PGA tour and, three hours later, David won the Players Championship. Combined winnings for the two were $1.065 million (about £665,625).

Victory was probably the high water mark for Duval Sr, but most assuredly his son's third victory in the seven events in which he has competed this year will not be his last. It confirmed what golfers, including Tiger Woods, have been saying for most of the year — that Duval is the best golfer in the world. The rankings do not argue: Woods was formally deposed after a run of 41 consecutive weeks as No 1.

Duval is on a streak of form the like of which is rare. He is the first player since Tom Watson, nearly 20 years ago, to achieve three victories in a season in three consecutive years. It was his tenth victory in his past 33 events and already this year he has won more than $2 million after setting a world earnings record by winning just $443,000 more last year. "It has been a good year already and it's only March," he said drily.

There is a certain justice in the man universally recognised as the best golfer winning the most important strokeplay event of the year to date. The always immaculate Stadium Course is normally demanding, but this year it was made much harder than usual by the firmness and speed of the greens. As early as Friday, they were resembling Open greens in the way that they had brown patches on them.

In addition this year, the rough was grown longer and was thus more impenetrable. As if all of this were not enough, on Saturday a strong wind made the course as difficult as any in recent memory — more difficult, perhaps, even than Pebble Beach was on the last day of the 1992 US Open.

These were the reasons why the American finished just three under par with a total of 285 and why only one other player managed a below-par score on a course where Greg Norman had been 24 under par when he won in 1995.

These were ideal conditions for Lee Westwood. Behind that cheery face of his lurks the heart of a man who likes nothing better than to stand toe to toe and trade punches with the hardest, most demanding course. In this, the young Briton resembles Jack Nicklaus and Nick Faldo. You never heard them whingeing about a course being too difficult. True champions that they were, they would never acknowledge publicly that any course was too much for them.



Westwood: in good heart

Observing Westwood in his final round was like watching a miner picking at a coal face, flint by flint, knowing that too firm a blow might bring the roof down. He leaves for a week of intensive practice before the Masters in good heart.

That is more than can be said about Colin Montgomerie, whose erratic final round of 79, which contained only eight pars, meant that he slumped to joint-23rd place and was that of a man who does not yet have his golf under control. Since the Masters starts in ten days, the Scot is running out of time.

Seasoned Pepper salts away second big trophy

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN RANCHO MIRAGE, CALIFORNIA

LIKE her or loathe her, there's no denying that Dottie Pepper is hot stuff and she confirmed her status as one of the best players in the world with a stunning victory in the Nabisco Dinah Shore at Mission Hills on Sunday. The combustible American, who had surgery on her hands at the end of last year, eclipsed Amy Alcott's championship record by four shots with a total of 269, 19 under par, after a final round of 66.

It was also a record for any major championship, one shot better than the 18-under-par total set by Brandie Burton in the duMaurier Classic last year.

Pepper was second, eight shots behind Alcott, in 1991 and went on to win the title in 1992, but this was the 33-year-old's first major victory since — taking her total to two — and her first of any kind for 2½ years.

The statistics show that Pepper is four-tenths of a shot per round better than she was in 1992 and she was finding her winless run baffling. "I knew I had never played this well and I was beginning to wonder what the heck I had to do to win," she said, dripping from her champion's dip in the lake at the 18th, a tradition started by Alcott.

A couple of towering eagles helped to end the bafflement — a three at the 9th in the third round and a two at the 16th on Sunday, where she holed a seven-iron from 144 yards, to finish off Meg Mallon, the one gallant challenger.

"Time to surrender," Mallon, who lost by six shots, said, taking a white towel from her bag and waving it about. The real killer, however, was the 14th hole, where Pepper chipped in for a birdie two and Mallon took three putts for a bogey. Pepper, whose lead had been cut to two strokes, was four ahead again and it was her day.

It was also an encouraging day for European golf, despite Pepper's reputation as the scourge of Europe in the Solheim Cup. Charlotta Sorenstam did not drop a shot in a closing round of 66, to finish fifth, two shots ahead of Annika, her big sister, who shared seventh place with Janice Moodie and Catriona Matthew, the Scottish pair.

Maria Hjorth and Helen Alfredsson were also in the top ten and there are nine European players in the top 20 on the US LPGA money-list. Pepper moved to second place with her first prize of $150,000.



Pepper: another pot



Miller: injury blow for Ireland selectors

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

European under-21 championship
Qualifying group one
Switzerland v Wales

Group three
Moldova v N Ireland (2.0)

Group nine
Scotland v Czech Republic (at Motherwell F C)

Nationwide League
First division
Wolverhampton v Crewe (7.45)

Second division
Wigan v Bristol Rovers (7.45)

Third division
Plymouth v Scunthorpe (7.45)
Rochdale v Southend (7.45)

Nationwide Conference
Southport v Woking (7.45)

Scottish League
First division
Clydebank v Ayr

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bromsgrove v Crawley (7.45), Cambridge City v Burton Albion; Hastings v Bath City (7.45); Tamworth v Grantham; Weymouth v Dorchester (7.45). **Southern division:** Ashford v Dartford (7.45); Bashley v Fleet T (7.45); Newport IoW v Margate (7.45); Tonbridge Angels v Erith and Belvedere (7.45); Witney v Sittingbourne (7.45). **Midland division:** Evesham v Shepshed Dynamo (7.45); Stourbridge v Stafford.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Colwyn Bay v Leigh RMI; Stalybridge v Altrincham; Worksop v Whitby (7.45). **First division:** Eastwood Town v Lincoln United; Radcliffe v Burscough; Stocksbridge PS v Farsley Celtic; Trafford v Matlock Town (7.45); Whitley Bay v Bradford PA Ave; Ashton v Droylsden. **Cup: Fourth-round replay:** Guiseley v Accrington Stanley.

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Boreham Wood v Dagenham and Red (7.45); Chesham v St Albans; Dulwich v Hampton; Gravesend v Bishop's Stortford; Heybridge v Hendon. **First division:** Grays v Oxford City (7.45); Hitchin v Staines (7.45); Romford v Wembley (7.45); Whyteleafe v Uxbridge (7.45). **Second division:** Barking v Met Police (7.45); Hemel Hempstead v Hungerford (7.45); Hertford v Witham (7.45); Horsham v Edgware (7.45); Northwood v Thame Utd (7.45). **Third division:** Camberley Town v Clapton (7.45); Egham v Southall (7.45); Epsom and Ewell v Lewes (7.45); Ford Utd v Ware (7.45); Hornchurch v Corinthian-Casuals (7.45).

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Fifth round: Millwall v Wimbledon.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Oxford v Wycombe

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Derby v Aston Villa (7.0); Leeds v Sunderland (7.0). **First division:** Grimsby v Burnley (7.0). **Second division:** Bradford v Blackpool (2.0); Rotherham v Sheffield Utd (7.0).

LEAGUE OF WALES: Barry v Carmarthen Town; Connah's Quay v Conwy; Inter Cable-Tel v Holywell (7.45); Rhayader Town v Aberystwyth.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Omagh v Ballymena. **First division:** Limavady v Ards.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Premier League: Greenwich v Ramsgate; Herne Bay v Thamesmead; Sheppey v Beckenham.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Barkingside v Waltham Abbey; Brook House v Toddington; Potters Bar Town v Hillingdon Borough; Somersett Ambury v New Bradwell St Peter; St Margaretsbury v Welwyn Garden.

HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Fort William v Clachnacuddin.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bedfont v Merstham; Godalming and Guildford v Cranleigh; Raynes Park Vale v Ashford; Sandhurst v Ash; Viking Sports v Chessington and Hook; Walton Casuals v Cove.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Diss v Stowmarket (7.45); Gorleston v Newmarket (7.45); Histon v Fakenham (7.45); Lowestoft v Warboys (7.45); Sudbury Wanderers v Bury Town (7.45); Wroxham v Woodbridge Town (7.45).

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Kings Norton v Sandwell (7.45); Pelsall V v Shifnal T (7.45); Pershore T v Oldbury (7.45); Rocester v W Mid Police (7.45); Willenhall v Stourport S (7.45).

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Buxton v Staveley MW; Eccleshill v Denaby; Liversedge v Thackley; Pontefract Cols v Brigg Town. **President's Cup: Final: Second Leg:** Garforth Town v North Ferriby.

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division: Bootle v Vauxhall G M; Glossop North End v Ramsbottom; Prescot Cables v St Helens Town.

POOLS FORECAST

Saturday, April 3
Coupon No, fix, forecast

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP
1 Blackburn v Middlesbro 1
2 Charlton v Chelsea 2
3 Derby v Newcastle x
4 Leeds v Nott'm F 1
5 Liverpool v Everton x
6 Sheff Wed v Coventry x
7 South'pton v Arsenal 2
8 Tottenham v Leicester 1
9 Wimbledon v Man Utd 2

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION
10 Barnsley v Sheff Utd 1
11 Bradford C v Grimsby 1
12 Bristol C v Port Vale 1
13 Norwich v Crystal P 2
14 Oxford Utd v Bolton x
15 QPR v Hudd'field 1
16 Stockport v Bury 1
17 Sunderland v W Brom 1
18 Swindon v Ipswich 2
19 Watford v Tranmere 2
20 Wolves v Portsmouth 1

SECOND DIVISION
21 Blackpool v Walsall 1
22 Macclesf'ld v Wycombe x
23 Man City v Wigan A 1
24 Notts County v Burnley x
25 Stoke v Lincoln 1
26 Wrexham v Bristol R 2
27 York v Chest'field x

THIRD DIVISION
28 Barnet v Halifax 2
29 Camb'ge Utd v Cardiff 1
30 Carlisle v Torquay 1
31 Darlington v Rotherham x
32 Hartlepool v Brentford 2
33 Hull v Scarboro 1
34 Leyton O v Southend 1
35 Mansfield v Brighton 1
36 Plymouth v Shrewsbury x
37 Rochdale v Peterboro 2
38 Scunthorpe v Exeter 1
39 Swansea v Chester 1

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE
40 Aberdeen v Dunf'mline 1
41 Celtic v Dundee 1
42 Dundee U v Motherwell 1
43 Hearts v Kilmarnock 2

SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION
44 Airdrie v Ayr x
45 G'n'ck Morton v Falkirk 2
46 Hamilton v Hibernian 2
47 Raith v Stranraer 1
48 St Mirren v Clydebank 1

SECOND DIVISION
49 Arbroath v Partick 2

TREBLE CHANCE (home teams): Derby, Liverpool, Sheff Wed, Oxford, Macc'field, Notts County, York, Darlington, Plymouth, Airdrie.

BEST DRAWS: Derby, Sheffield Wednesday, Oxford, York, Darlington

AWAYS: Chelsea, Arsenal, Manchester United, Crystal Palace, Ipswich

HOMES: Leeds, Tottenham, Bradford City, Bristol City, Sunderland, Stoke, Hull, Leyton Orient, Mansfield.

FIXED ODDS: Homes: Leeds, Bradford City, Stoke, Hull, Mansfield. **Aways:** Chelsea, Arsenal, Crystal Palace. **Draws:** Derby, Sheffield Wednesday, Oxford

Monday April 5

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP
1 *Chelsea v Leeds x
2 Coventry v South'pton 1
3 Everton v Sheff Wed 1
4 Middlesbro v Wimbledon 1
5 Newcastle v Tottenham x
6 Nott'm F v Liverpool 2
7 West Ham v Charlton 1

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION
8 Birmingham v Watford 1
9 Bolton v Stockport 1
10 Bury v Bradford C 2
11 Crystal P v Sunderland 2
12 Grimsby v Norwich x
13 Hudd'field v Swindon 1
14 Ipswich v QPR 1
15 Port Vale v Barnsley 2
16 Portsmouth v Bristol C 1
17 Sheff Utd v Wolves 2
18 Tranmere v Oxford Utd 1
19 West Brom v Crewe x

SECOND DIVISION
20 Bristol R v North'pton 1
21 Burnley v Colchester 1
22 Chest'field v Stoke x
23 Lincoln v Notts County x
24 Millwall v Blackpool 1
25 Preston v Man City x
26 Reading v Fulham 2
27 Wigan A v Oldham 1
28 Wycombe v Gillingham x

THIRD DIVISION
29 Brentford v Plymouth 1
30 Cardiff v Hull 1
31 Chester v Barnet 2
32 Exeter v Leyton O 2
33 Halifax v Rochdale 1
34 Peterboro v Darlington 1
35 Rotherham v Swansea x
36 Scarboro v Carlisle 1
37 Southend v Scunthorpe x
38 Torquay v Mansfield 1

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE
39 Chelt'ham v Kid'minster 1
40 Doncaster v Hednesford 1
41 Farnboro v Yeovil 2
42 Hereford v Forest Green x
43 Kettering v Stevenage 1
44 Kingstonian v Dover 1
45 Northwich v Barrow 1
46 Southport v Morecambe x
47 Telford v Leek 2
48 Welling Utd v Hayes 2
49 Woking v Rushden x

* pools panel to adjudicate

TREBLE CHANCE: Newcastle, Grimsby, West Brom, Chesterfield, Lincoln, Preston, Wycombe, Rotherham, Southend, Hereford, Southport, Woking.

BEST DRAWS: Newcastle, Grimsby, Chesterfield, Preston, Hereford.

FIXED ODDS: Homes: Middlesbrough, West Ham, Huddersfield, Tranmere, Halifax. **Aways:** Liverpool, Barnsley, Leyton Orient. **Draws:** Grimsby, Chesterfield, Preston.

■ Vince Wright

RUGBY UNION

European revival frees clubs to cash in

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

THE new accord within European rugby could mean a return to the six nations involved of £30 million, even before gate receipts are considered. European Rugby Cup Ltd (ERC) administrators, who meet in Dublin on Thursday, are confident that the presence of English clubs, coupled with the long-term nature of the agreement, will prove to be an attractive package to sponsors and broadcasters.

Moreover, the English clubs, who hope to centralise their commercial arrangements, believe that they will be able to offer "clean" grounds — free from perimeter advertising — within two or three years, making an even more attractive option for sponsors.

"I haven't been so encouraged for almost three years," Vernon Pugh, the chairman of the International Rugby Board, said. "We now have a platform in the northern hemisphere on which we can build."

There is interest already in the refurbished tournament from Heineken, the brewing company, which sponsored the competition in its first three years. "The agreement is great news for rugby and I hope there will be a way back for us," a spokesman said. The company had put in place a self-imposed deadline of April, after which it would have looked to other markets, but it seeks to return to a competition that it did so much to nourish.

In the meantime, the English clubs intend to create an even closer relationship with their French counterparts that could extend to harmonising fixtures and replicating financial arrangements.

Patrick Wolff, the vice-president of the French National League, said that the game in his country required Europe as a way of improving domestic standards. "We want to work with English First-Division Rugby (EFDR) so as to get as much comparison as possible between the domestic championships of our countries," he said. "We want to harmonise the level of competition, the timetable, to go the same way as them in terms of salary caps and budget controls."

An independent body in France monitors the spending of sports organisations and, if their budgets do not balance, they can be prevented from recruiting and, in extreme circumstances, relegated.

"I'm very optimistic," Wolff said. "The eight-year agreement gives us the chance to get the best sponsors and broadcast contracts we can, but we must keep up the pace. The next four to six months must be used for negotiations which will create a good tournament for the next few years."

Two television channels are already said to be interested, although one of the lessons that governing bodies have learnt is the value of terrestrial broadcasters.

A European final is projected for May 27, 2000, at the end of a northern-hemisphere season of unparalleled activity, including as it does the World Cup in October and November. English Rugby Partnership has now to accommodate domestic Allied Dunbar Premiership and cup matches, built around the Six Nations Championship, and a European tournament likely to start a fortnight after the World Cup final on November 6.

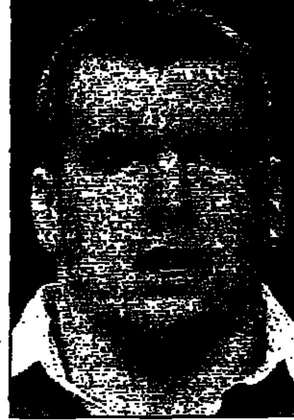
Next season begins on August 28 and the restoration of a European Cup validates the decision of the first division clubs to play Premiership matches up to and during the World Cup. There is likely to be one Premiership weekend after the World Cup final before the European pool games, which will be played either side of Christmas, building up to quarter-finals at the end of January.

Eric Miller, the Terenure College and Ireland flanker, has been ruled out for at least ten weeks. He will have to undergo an operation on his left ankle after sustaining the injury in Ireland's final Five Nations Championship match, against Scotland at Murrayfield. In that game, he was replaced by Victor Costello.

The operation will cost Miller his place in the Ireland team to play Italy at Lansdowne Road on April 10. He will also miss Ireland's four-match tour of Australia in May and June.

The injury compounds problems for the Ireland selectors. David Humphreys, the fly half, has been ruled out of the match against Italy because of a finger tendon injury, also sustained against Scotland.

The injury to Humphreys will probably mean a recall for Eric Elwood, while the absence of Miller will leave the selectors to choose between the uncapped Alan Quinlan, of Shannon, and more experienced players such as David Corkery and Trevor Brennan.



Miller: injury blow for Ireland selectors

Big sister encounters little problem

Alix Ramsay believes Serena Williams can eclipse Venus



HEATHER HALL

Venus Williams, right, emerged victorious at the Lipton championships, but Serena, left, has the better all-round game

It has always been hard to separate the Williams sisters — where Venus goes, Serena follows. They play together, they practise together and, on Sunday, for the first time, they competed together for the Lipton championship. For all the hype and the hoopla, they had never managed to conduct a serious match on the women's tour.

Venus, 18, one year older and four inches taller, had always been the dominant force, but while Venus retained her title here, Serena was dogging her footsteps every inch of the way.

According to the latest world rankings, a mere five places separate the sisters. Venus has long been established in the top ten, but Serena is determined to follow her there. Her run in Florida has taken her to No 11 in the world, but the chance was there for her to break into the elite group. All she had to do was to beat her sister and the big prize was hers — and, if she had continued to play the way that she had all week, she would have done it. Her disappointment after the 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 loss was plain to see.

"I definitely didn't play very well at all," Serena said. "I was making way too many errors, it just wasn't the same Serena, like the rest of my matches. Venus is not only fast, but she has a long reach. Even if she doesn't hit a good shot, she'll get it back. You have to realise that when you are playing Venus, she's a great player. You have to know when you're playing me, I'm a great, awesome player, too."

This assessment came as something of a surprise. Neither sister is known for admitting their mistakes or for praising the opposition, but Serena knew exactly what she had done wrong. "I went for too much too soon," she said. "Maybe I should have tried coming to the net or just do something different." And that is the one thing that does separate Serena from Venus — Serena can adapt her game to suit the situation.

It took Venus a couple of years to amass two tournament wins, while Serena has achieved the same in the past three weeks. Serena is the better volleyer, has the sharper reactions and has a better tactical approach. Venus has the bigger service, but when Serena steps in to take the return early, she fires the shot as if it came from a rocket-launcher. Not that this should seem strange to anyone who has listened to Richard Williams, their father. When Venus first arrived on the circuit, he warned everyone that her little sister was the better prospect.

"Serena tends to feel her way through a match to find out what her opponents like and do not like," he said. "As soon as she figures that out, she usually hits her way straight through them. She's like a big train, she runs right over them." He also believes that his daughters are ready to take the next step and start winning grand slams — and when they do, he believes that nothing will stop them.

Mr Williams, it seems, has a bigger picture than most. He is, he says, too busy to be bothered much with tennis these days. His business interests are many and varied and one of his projects involves buying the Rockefeller Center in New York for $3.9 billion. Quite what the present owners think of this idea remains unclear.

But if his financial plans appear to be a little fanciful, the one thing that he does know about is his two girls and he always backed Serena to be the champion.

"When they started, I really thought Serena had a better chance at making it than Venus," he said. "Because she couldn't beat people with the same power as Venus, she had to learn to play angles and dropshots. Right now, she is hitting angles and dropshots better than anyone. I think she has a better chance than Venus."

There is more than a good chance that soon the Williams sisters will be doing everything together, but Serena will be doing it first while Venus will be forced to follow her.

WTA RANKINGS

1, M Hingis (Switz) 5,421pts
2, L Davenport (US) 5,310
3, M Seles (US) 3,919
4, J Novotna (Cz) 3,766
5, S Graf (Ger) 3,079
6, V Williams (US) 2,989
7, A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) 2,847
8, M Pierce (Fr) 2,395
9, A Coetzer (SA) 2,183
10, N Tauziat (Fr) 2,086
11, S Williams (US) 2,060
12, S Testud (Fr) 1,994

Henman falls in pecking order

TIM HENMAN slipped one place to No 7 in the ATP world rankings after his early defeat in the Lipton championships, while Greg Rusedski, who joins Henman for Great Britain's Davis Cup tie with the United States this week, has risen two places to No 11.

ATHLETICS

Status is restored to British meetings

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

THE International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) performed a U-turn yesterday and announced that it was restoring the grand prix status of Great Britain's two main international track meetings, less than a month after downgrading them. Whether Dougie Walker will be eligible to appear in them should be known today.

The report from the panel looking into whether Walker, the European 200 metres champion, has a case to answer over a failed drugs test was lodged yesterday with a legal representative for UK Athletics, the governing body of the sport in Britain. The verdict on whether he should remain free to compete or be suspended for two years was not released pending clarification of a final point by two medical experts.

UK Athletics said that an announcement was expected today. Nick Bitel, Walker's lawyer, declined to endorse a suggestion that the delay pointed towards exoneration. "It is like waiting for a jury to come back," Bitel said. "You never really know what it all means." If suspended, Walker will contest the charge.

Three weeks ago, the IAAF said that the British Grand Prix at Sheffield was to be relegated to Grand Prix II level and the Grand Prix II meeting at Gateshead booted out altogether. The reversal of the decision was described by David Hemery, the president of UK Athletics, as "a great boost for the sport in Great Britain".

Primo Nebiolo, the IAAF president, said in a letter to Hemery: "I recognise the extraordinary circumstances which athletics faced in the UK last year. We believe that Britain deserves exceptional consideration in this case."

Nebiolo appears to have been swayed by the intervention of Hemery and Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport. He was also given assurances that the redevelopment of Wembley Stadium will be completed in time to stage the 2003 world championships, which Britain is seeking to host.

SPORT IN BRIEF

■ **TRIATHLON:** Great Britain's bid to host the world championships in conjunction with the London Triathlon on September 18-19 has been rejected by the International Triathlon Union (ITU) in favour of Montreal one week earlier. The ITU had asked Britain to consider coming forward as an emergency replacement for Munich after saying that it could not work with the German federation. Les McDonald, the ITU president, said that Montreal put together a better course and structure.

■ **HOCKEY:** England were held to a 2-2 draw by Argentina in Buenos Aires last night in the second international match of their tour. The previous match was drawn 4-4. Giles, an England substitute, and Hall gave England a two-goal lead, but Argentina fought back to level the match with goals by Retegui and Capurro, from a short corner, which was hotly disputed.

■ **BOXING:** Carl Thompson looks certain to lose a percentage of his £160,000 purse, for a "breach of agreement", when he lost his World Boxing Organisation (WBO) cruiserweight title to Johnny Nelson at Derby on Saturday. It follows an incident when his cornermen entered the ring wearing Naseem Hamed T-shirts.

■ **BADMINTON:** Elliot Stuart, the England coach, has resigned as national team boss because of the heavy time commitment. Ray Stevens, the former England international, is being linked as a replacement. Stuart was expected to become England's world class performance director from April.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Sunday: Chester Jets 84 Sheffield Sharks 81, Greater London Leopards 77 Leicester Riders 75; Milton Keynes Lions 68 Exide London Towers 70

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION: Toronto 91 Chicago 78; Boston 93 Indiana 101, Detroit 104 Seattle 87; Orlando 84 Miami 87; Minnesota 86 Milwaukee 94; Charlotte 105 Cleveland 84; LA Lakers 99 New York 91; Phoenix 86 Portland 88; Sacramento 93 Houston 107.

FOOTBALL

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Semi-final draw: Kingstonian v Cheltenham; St Albans v Forest Green
☐ First leg: April 10, Second leg: April 17

ARGENTINE LEAGUE: Independiente 2 Platense 1, Colon 3 Rosario Central 0, Union 1 Newell's Old Boys 0; Talleres 1 Velez Sarsfield 1; Boca Juniors 1 Gimnasia y Esgrima La Plata 1, Estudiantes de La Plata 2 Argentinos Juniors 1; Lanus 1 Racing Club 0, Gimnasia de Jujuy 2 Huracan 2; Ferro Carril Oeste 0 Belgrano 1; San Lorenzo 2 River Plate 2.

BRAZILIAN LEAGUE: São Paulo State championship: Second stage: Rio Branco 1 Santos 2; São Paulo 4 Mogi Mirim 0, Matonense 4 Guarani 0; Internacional Limeira 1 Portuguesa Santista 0; Portuguesa 1 Barbarense 5; Palmeiras 3 Corinthians 1. Rio de Janeiro State championship: First stage: Vasco da Gama 3 Americano 2; Botafogo 0 Flamengo 1; Itaperuna 0 Madureira 1; Olaria 1 Bangu 4; Friburguense 1 Fluminense 2.

GOLF

SAWGRASS, Florida: Players Championship: Leading final scores (United States unless stated): 286: D Duval 69, 69, 74, 73. 287: S Gump 72, 74, 70, 71. 288: N Price (Zim) 74, 67, 74, 73. 289: F Couples 77, 71, 73, 68; H Sutton 69, 74, 73, 73. 290: L Westwood (GB) 73, 69, 75, 73; M O'Meara 72, 73, 71, 74; S Stricker 73, 73, 70, 74; S Hoch 72, 70, 73, 75. 291: M Brooks 71, 77, 71, 72; D Love III 70, 70, 78, 73; M Calcavecchia 76, 70, 72, 73; N Ozaki (Japan) 69, 68, 81, 73; J Sindelar 72, 71, 74, 74; T Woods 70, 71, 75, 75; S Kendall 70, 73, 70, 78. 292: E Els (SA) 73, 67, 80, 72; J Furyk 71, 76, 73, 72; D Waldorf 71, 71, 75, 75. 293: D Toms 73, 75, 74, 71; V Singh (Fiji) 77, 70, 74, 72; J Huston 75, 72, 73, 73. 294: B Faxon 73, 70, 80, 71; F Langham 71, 75, 75, 73; E Toledo (Mex) 73, 75, 72, 74; J Leonard 72, 72, 75, 75; J Parnevik (Swe) 71, 73, 74, 76; C Strange 71, 69, 78, 76; F Lickliter 71, 70, 76, 77; L Mize 73, 71, 73, 77; P Stewart 72, 70, 74, 78; C Montgomerie (GB) 72, 70, 73, 79. 295: S Verplank 76, 71, 73, 75; B Lietzke 71, 68, 80, 76; G Hjertstedt (Swe) 73, 72, 74, 76; C Perry 70, 74, 73, 78; P Mickelson 71, 71, 71, 82. 296: M A Jiménez (Sp) 76, 69, 79, 72; B Langer (Ger) 73, 72, 77, 74; S Elkington (Aus) 71, 73, 78, 74; K Triplett 70, 75, 76, 75; P Goydos 71, 74, 76, 75; T Tolles 72, 73, 76, 75; B Watts 68, 74, 76, 78; D Hart 70, 74, 76, 76; F Funk 72, 69, 76, 79.

LEADING WORLD RANKINGS: 1, D Duval (US) 12.75pts; 2, T Woods (US) 12.62; 3, D Love III (US) 10.39; 4, M O'Meara (US) 9.96; 5, E Els (SA) 9.16; 6, L Westwood (GB) 8.89; 7, V Singh (Fiji) 8.85; 8, N Price (Zim) 8.33; 9, C Montgomerie (GB) 8.22; 10, F Couples (US) 7.43. Other British placings: 18, D Clarke 5.84; 58, I Woosnam 2.84; 79, A Coltart 2.13; 86, D Howell 1.87; 87, M James 1.87; 89, P Price 1.83; 92, P Baker 1.75; 96, S Torrance 1.71; 97, N Faldo 1.70

RANCHO MIRAGE, California: Nabisco Dinah Shore: Leading final scores (United States unless stated): 269: D Pepper 70, 66, 67, 66. 275: M Mallon 66, 69, 71, 69. 280: K Webb (Aus) 73, 71, 70, 66. 281: K Robbins 69, 73, 67, 72. 282: C Sorenstam (Swe) 72, 66, 76, 68. 283: J Inkster 72, 66, 71, 74. 284: A Sorenstam (Swe) 70, 73, 71, 70; C Matthew (GB) 72, 73, 69, 70; J Moodie (GB) 69, 68, 75, 72. 285: S Steinhauer 70, 72, 72, 71; H Alfredsson (Swe) 69, 71, 73, 72; M Hjorth (Swe) 77, 68, 68, 72. 286: M Will 72, 71, 73, 70; R Jones 73, 70, 73, 70; M Redman 71, 74, 69, 72; P Bradley 73, 69, 72, 72; C McCurdy 70, 74, 69, 73; K Tschetter 68, 70, 73, 75; M Hirase (Japan) 70, 72, 69, 75; S R Pak (Kor) 73, 69, 69, 75. 287: M Estill 70, 76, 71, 70; M Spencer-Devlin 72, 69, 77, 69; H Stacy 74, 74, 69, 70; R Hetherington (Aus) 70, 74, 71, 72; N Lopez 72, 73, 69, 73; H Kobayashi (Japan) 70, 69, 74, 74; D Andrews 70, 69, 74, 74; D Eggeling 73, 70, 70, 74. British placings: 291: K Marshall 73, 71, 78, 69. 292: T Johnson 75, 70, 73, 74. 293: A Nicholas 72, 73, 74, 74. 294: L Neumann 77, 72, 72, 73. 298: L Davies 70, 76, 74, 78.

ICE HOCKEY

SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE PLAY-OFFS: Group A: Sheffield 2 Manchester 5. Group B: Ayr 8 Nottingham 2; Cardiff 6 Newcastle 2.

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Carolina 3 Tampa Bay 3; Edmonton 5 San Jose 2; Chicago 3 St Louis 1; Colorado 7 Los Angeles 2; Detroit 3 Philadelphia 2 (OT); Buffalo 4 Pittsburgh 3 (OT); Florida 2 New Jersey 2; Nashville 0 Dallas 3.

MOTOR RACING

PHOENIX, Arizona: Phoenix 200 (United States unless stated): 1, S Goodyear (Can) 200 laps; 2, J Ward at 4.73sec; 3, R Buhl; 4, B Boat; 5, S Harrington all same lap.

MOUNTAIN BIKING

NAPA, California: World Cup: Men: 1, M Martinez (Fr) 2hr 27min 44.74sec; 2, C Evans (Aus) 2:28:44.63; 3, G Vollet (Fr) 2:29:44.97; 4, R Hoydahl (Nor) 2:30:04.61; 5, J Chiotti (Fr) 2:30:31.06

ROWING

HEAD OF THE RIVER RACE (Mortlake to Putney): 1, Queen's Tower I 17min 6 sec (overall winner); 2, Leander I 17.09 (Page Trophy winner); 3, Oxford Brookes I 17.18; 4, Molesey I 17.25; 5, Nottingham County I 17.26; 6, Gmunden, Austria 17.27; 7, London I 17.32 (Vernon Trophy winner); 8, Neptune, Dublin 17.32.14; 9, Leander II 17.33; 10, Berliner, Germany, I 17.37. Other division winners: 12, Oxford Brookes II 17.41 (Senior 2 and Ormer winners); 14, Imperial College I 17.46 (Senior 1 winners); 16, Imperial College II 17.49 (fastest university second crew); 23, Star I 17.58 (Jackson Trophy winners); 49, Star II 18.24 (Senior 3 winners); 58, Durham University II 18.32 (Senior 4 winners); 101, Royal Navy and Royal Marines 18.54 (fastest services crew); 124, UMIST I 19.04 (novice winners).

RUGBY UNION

FIRA world junior championship: Second division: Russia 10 Ukraine 3, Spain 13 Germany 7. Third division: Chinese Taipei 48 Luxembourg 7; Morocco 25 Andorra 3; Netherlands 42 Croatia 0; Cote D'Ivoire 46 Brazil 5. Fourth division: Israel 21 Switzerland 3; Bulgaria 8 Bosnia 8; Sweden 24 Slovenia 6; Hungary 0 Yugoslavia 36; Madagascar 12 Tunisia 7.

DAILY MAIL UNDER-18 CUP: Final: Colston's Collegiate 42 RGS High Wycombe 12. Under-15 Cup: Final: Whitgift 18 Wellington College 12

SCHOOLS SPORT

FOOTBALL: Durham under-13 festival: Gravesham 3 Derwentside 2; South Tyneside 3 Darlington 2; Sunderland 6 Chester-le-Street 2; Luton 1 Hartlepool 3; East Northumberland 7 Bishop Auckland 1.

SHOOTING

BISLEY: Clubs' champion of champions: Greater London and South East region heat: 1, N Brazier (Stock Exchange) 146.19pts; 2, P Thompson (O Laurentians) 146.14; 3, D Davies (United Banks) 143.21.

BORDON: Army Rifle Association smallbore finals: Inter division/district match: 1, Northern Ireland 3006; 2, 5 Division 2986; 3, London District 2746; 4, 3(UK) Division 2701. Top score: Maj P Underhill (5 Div) 392 ex 400. Land command inter unit match (Regular and TA Units): 1, 3 Royal Irish 1543; 2, 3 PoW(V) (2 Division) 1517; 3, Univ of London OTC (London District) 1481. Top score: Cpl I Patton (R Irish) 392 ex 400.

SNOOKER

GOFFS, Co Kildare: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters: S Hendry (Scot) bt S Lee (Eng) 9-8.

TENNIS

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida: Lipton Championships: Women's final: V Williams (US) bt S Williams (US) 6-1, 4-6, 6-4

SUNDERLAND: Girobank Tour: Men: First round: J Caines (South Wales) bt E Wood (Hants) 1-6, 6-1, 6-1; S Harston (Essex) bt G Arber (Kent) 7-6, 6-1; J Murray (Yorks) bt P Maggs (Avon) 4-6, 6-2, 7-6; M Eilames (Essex) bt G Bamford (Herts) 6-3, 6-4; M Trudgeon (Cornwall) bt B Gudzelak (Middx) 6-4, 7-5; J Smith (Northants) bt I Thomas (Merseyside) 6-3, 6-3; C Edmondson (Lancs) bt B McManus (Kent) 6-4, 6-4; D Crawley (Norfolk) bt S Arney (Derbyshire) 6-4, 6-4. Women: First round: J O'Donoghue (Lancs) bt L Dawson (Durham and Cleveland) 6-0, 6-4; L Collinson (Oxon) bt L Rawling (Yorks) 3-6, 6-3, 6-1; N Trinder (Northumberland) bt D Hock (Lancs) 6-3, 6-4; H Broome (Lancs) bt M Roach (Warks) 6-3, 6-4; A Blow (Leics) bt D Bell (Surrey) 6-0, 6-3; Y Doyle (Ire) bt L Brookes (Leics) 6-2, 6-1; M Berry (Suffolk) bt S Gregg (Yorks) 6-2, 6-3; G Atherton (Lancs) bt S Bickendorf (Lux) 6-0, 6-1

LEADING MEN'S WORLD RANKINGS: 1, P Sampras (US) 3525pts; 2, C Moyá (Sp) 3518; 3, Y Kafelnikov (Russ) 3382; 4, R Krajicek (Neth) 3119; 5, P Rafter (Aus) 3115; 6, A Corretja (Sp) 3101; 7, T Henman (GB) 2633; 8, T Martin (US) 2279; 9, M Philippoussis (Aus) 2264; 10, K Kucera (Slovakia) 2253; 11, G Rusedski (GB) 2129; 12, A Agassi (US) 2071; 13, M Rios (Chi) 2035; 14, G Ivanisevic (Cro) 1929; 15, T Enqvist (Swe) 1896

SNOOKER

Hendry's display of perfect timing

BY PHIL YATES

WITH the Embassy world championship beginning at the Crucible Theatre just 19 days from now, Stephen Hendry could not have timed his 9-8 victory over Stephen Lee in the final of the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters on Sunday any better.

For someone who has won the event twice before, four tournaments this season and 69 in all, such a result is hardly earth shattering. However, it was not the win itself but the manner in which it was achieved that relayed a powerful message.

Hendry collected the £63,226 first prize by recovering from 5-0 and 8-4 down. With a surge of late excellence, the Scot performed magnificently under pressure.

Having been well below his best for most of the match, the prospect of imminent failure stoked Hendry's competitive fires, as it has done so often in the past. The next five frames were more a rout than a comeback.

In a little more than an hour, Hendry transformed a contest that had all but slipped away. He scored a total of 499 points to Lee's 69, compiling breaks of 51, 89, 123, 104 and, in the deciding frame, 85. In terms of quality, it was his finest recovery since beating Jimmy White 18-14 in the 1992 world championship final from 14-8 adrift.

Such an outstanding display continued the process of reconfirming Hendry as a strong challenger for the world title, which will be defended by John Higgins. "It's certainly the right time for my game to come together," Hendry said.

As a regular member of the elite top 16 in the world rankings, Hendry is not required to endure the rigours of qualification for the 32-man final stages of the world championship, unlike those veteran campaigners Dennis Taylor and Willie Thorne.

Taylor, 50, who has announced that he will retire from competition at the end of the season, fell 7-2 in arrears against Nick Walker, of Chester, in the seventh qualifying round in Telford. Thorne found himself in dire straits against Paul Sweeny, a law student. Entering their final session, Sweeny was 9-0 ahead and Thorne was facing his most ignominious defeat.

CRICKET: FAST BOWLER'S FIVE-WICKET HAUL LEAVES TARGET OF 308

BEN RADFORD/ALLSPORT



Adams joins Ambrose in celebrating his dismissal of Gillespie, the obdurate Australia nightwatchman

Walsh gives West Indies faint scent of victory

FROM PAT GIBSON IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

STEVE WAUGH has got what he wanted. "From a personal point of view," the combative Australia captain had said after West Indies had recovered from their mauling in the first Test match in Trinidad to level the series in Jamaica, "I love playing when it's tough and tight and real good cricket."

He should be relishing this third Test, which could not have been much tougher or tighter yesterday as West Indies came back again to challenge Australia's world supremacy with some of the best cricket that they have played for a long time.

Whether his players shared Waugh's view — or, indeed, whether he was still of the same opinion — was open to question as they collapsed to 81 for seven before Ricky Ponting and Shane Warne, making up with the bat for what he had given away with the ball, reasserted some authority with an eighth-wicket stand of 53. It enabled Australia to reach 146 and set West Indies a victory target of 308 with almost a day and a half remaining.

There have been times when Australia have appeared to be a class above the West Indies, such as when they were bowling them out for 51 in Port of Spain and reducing them to 34 for four in Kingston and 98 for six here. There have been other occasions, however, when they have fallen a long way below the standard that they have set themselves, as when Brian Lara and Jimmy Adams were putting on 322 in Jamaica, Sherwin Campbell and Ridley Jacobs were sharing a partnership of 153 here and even Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh were mocking Warne and Stuart MacGill, his fellow leg spinner, with a last-wicket stand of 38.

Such wild fluctuations in form and fortune had clearly jolted Australia's confidence when they began the fourth day, still in a strong position, 179 runs ahead with eight second-innings wickets in hand, but acutely aware that they could yet lose a match in which they made 490 in the first innings.

Lara seemed to sense their mood. His captaincy has come in for some severe criticism, but now he signalled West Indian optimism with positive tactics that drew a vibrant response from his bowlers and fielders. As usual, Ambrose and Walsh led the way, but it was Campbell, the batting hero on Sunday, who was responsible for the first and perhaps the most important wicket of the day. Australia were looking to Michael Slater for quick runs, but, when he had made 26, he risked a second run to Campbell at third man and was beaten by a swift, flat throw and direct hit.

Halley Moore, of Barbados, the third umpire, needed several television replays before giving the West Indies a rich dividend on their investment in Julian Fountain, an English baseball expert, who works with Yorkshire and the England youth squads and has been hired as a specialist fielding and throwing coach.

The next two wickets fell in more familiar fashion, Ambrose bowling Jason Gillespie, the nightwatchman, off an inside edge after an hour's resistance and Walsh exposing Mark Waugh's increasingly sloppy defensive technique and dismissing him leg-before.

True to his word, Steve Waugh seemed to be bristling for the fight when he thrashed Nehemiah Perry, the off spinner, over mid-wicket for six, but then he tried to cut a ball from Pedro Collins, the left-arm seamer, that was too close to him and chopped it into his stumps.

Ian Healy, whose batting appears to have gone to pieces, soon followed, caught behind off Collins as he wafted away outside off stump, and it was just as well for Australia that Ponting stood firm while Warne crashed about him.

They ensured the Australia lead was over 300, but, with the pitch in no way to blame for the collapse — it offered rewards to both batsmen and bowlers if they were good enough — West Indies reinforced their belief that they were not out of the game.

BRIDGETOWN SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First innings 490 (S Waugh 199, Ponting 104, Langer 51).

Second innings

M T G Elliott c Jacobs b Walsh	0
M J Slater run out	26
J L Langer lbw b Ambrose	1
J N Gillespie b Ambrose	14
M E Waugh lbw b Walsh	3
*S R Waugh b Collins	11
R T Ponting c Griffith b Walsh	22
†I A Healy c Jacobs b Collins	3
S K Warne lbw b Walsh	32
S C G MacGill c Campbell b Walsh	1
G D McGrath not out	8
Extras (lb 5 w 1 nb 19)	25
Total (50.1 overs)	146

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-12, 3-35, 4-46, 5-48, 6-72, 7-81, 8-134, 9-137.

BOWLING: Ambrose 20-2-60-2. Walsh 17.1-3-39-5. Collins 4-0-19-1. Perry 4-0-11-0.

WEST INDIES: First Innings

S L Campbell c S R Waugh b Gillespie	105
A F G Griffith run out	0
D R E Joseph lbw b McGrath	26
P T Collins lbw b McGrath	0
*B C Lara c Healy b Gillespie	8
C L Hooper c Warne b McGrath	25
J C Adams c M E Waugh b McGrath	0
†R D Jacobs c M E Waugh b Ponting	68
N O Perry lbw b Gillespie	24
C E L Ambrose not out	28
C A Walsh c Slater b Warne	12
Extras (b 10, lb 3, nb 20)	33
Total	329

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-50, 3-50, 4-64, 5-98, 6-98, 7-251, 8-265, 9-291.

BOWLING: McGrath 33-5-128-4, Gillespie 28-14-48-3, Warne 15.5-2-70-1, MacGill 20-5-47-0, Ponting 4-1-12-1; M Waugh 3-0-11-0.

Umpires: E A Nicholls and D L Orchard (South Africa)

Graveney seeks harmony

DAVID GRAVENEY, the chairman of the England selectors, arrived in Lahore yesterday for a week of practice matches ahead of the Coca-Cola Cup in Sharjah against India and Pakistan hoping that the still unresolved players' contracts issue will not undermine his preparations for the forthcoming World Cup.

The Coca-Cola Cup matches will be England's last competitive fixtures before the World Cup, which begins in England on May 14, yet the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has still to announce details of the contract to the 15 selected players. The last thing that Graveney wants is for the Sharjah tournament in nine days' time to be disrupted by a dispute over financial rewards. The players are believed to want around £50,000 a man, based on incentives for reaching each stage, and appearance money, if they win the World Cup. However, the ECB offer is likely to fall well short of that figure because it has still to secure four of its anticipated eight sponsors for the tournament.



Graveney: no distractions

"I'm keen that everything is resolved and that negotiations do not get in the way of playing the game," Graveney said. "There are three distinct stages to the World Cup — getting out of the first group, getting out of the Super Sixes and then going on to win it, and I don't want this sort of thing to become a distraction."

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 43

TAPNET

(a) A basket made of rushes, in which figs (formerly also raisins) are imported. Also a conventional measure of quantity. Apparently an alteration of *tappet, toppet* a basket. "Currantes or Raysens of Corinthe do not much differ in vertue from tapnet or frayle Raysens."

UROPYGIAL

(c) Situated on or belonging to the rump or uropygium of a bird. As a substantive, a rump-feather of a bird. The Greek words for back and bottom.

TOA

(b) A species of *Casuarina* found in the South Sea Islands. The native name in many Polynesian languages. Its wood, known from its colour and hardness as South Sea Ironwood, is used by the natives for their terrible clubs. Byron, *Island*, 1823: "We will sit in twilight's face, and see / The sweet moon glancing through the toa tree."

URAUGHT

(c) An Irish petty chief. Adapted from the Irish *otreacht* faction, party, clan. "I do absolutely renounce all challenge or intermeddling with the Uraughts, or exacting any blacke rentes of any Uraughts (or bordering Lords)."

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE

1 Nf6+! gxf6 2 Qxg6+ Kh8 3 Rg1 and Black can only prevent mate with 3 ... Qh4+ 4 Kd1 Qg5 5 Rxg5

TELEVISION CHOICE

Exposing animal instincts

Supernatural
BBC1, 8.30pm

A week later than originally planned (but of course your cat knew that), here's a seven-part series (including the now-inevitable *Making of*) about animals' "paranormal powers". Excuse me, but why should animals' greater-than-human-sensitivity to natural phenomena, and sharper reactions, be regarded as somehow supernatural? This successor to *Supersense*, which, ten years ago, certainly opened our eyes to advances in natural history filming techniques, is equally attractive and eye-catching, but I have to worry about the agenda of a series which suggests that grass screams when it is cut and that dolphins can see unborn babies as ultrasound scans.

A dolphin "seeing" an unborn child as examined in *Supernatural* (BBC1, 8.30pm)

Queer As Folk
Channel 4, 10.30pm

There has been genuine and justified outrage at the depiction of unsafe and sometimes illegal sexual activity in this series, but it must be remembered that it is drama. And whereas "mainstream" television drama, such as the major soaps, can stir in more births, deaths, marriages and sexual liaisons than any real communities would produce; all in the name of higher ratings, Russell T. Davies is castigated because his characters go about their promiscuous business without much suggestion of guilt or shame. They do, however, have to face the consequences of their frolicking.

Close Up
BBC2, 9.30pm

The Polish-born architect Daniel Libeskind's design for an extension to the Victoria and Albert Museum in South Kensington, London, has elicited great howls of protest. The radical, white concrete and tile spiral ill accords with its Victorian neighbours. This is a low-key, persuasive film about Libeskind's life, working methods and record. His CV includes the astonishing Jewish Museum in Berlin and a proposed northern branch of the Imperial War Museum, in Stafford. Brian Sewell offers cogent criticism of the V&A extension as a functional exhibition space, while others argue that London needs truly modern architecture in order to stay *au courant*.

Counterblast
BBC2, 7.30pm

Erin Pizzey, who founded the first refuge in Britain for battered women, is the first person to be given access to this new television soapbox, and her chosen subject is, unsurprisingly, domestic violence. Less predictably, she is principally concerned with challenging what she describes as the orthodox but incorrect view that such violence is always inflicted by men on their female partners and children. Men, she claims, have been demonised by feminists who hijacked the campaign against domestic violence to further their own man-hating agenda. Various experts and journalists are summoned to support Pizzey's contention and confirm that indeed as much as 40 per cent of abuse and battering is suffered by men at the hands of women. Men have been officially marginalised in the family, with consequent damage to the institution and to individuals. **Tony Patrick**

RADIO CHOICE

Goldfish and Candy Floss
Radio 2, 9pm

David Essex presents this reminiscence on fairgrounds, starting with the contention that it remains a special moment when you've stuck your darts in three separate cards and won a goldfish in a little plastic bag. What a sad man. There is a romanticised air about the programme, given that fairgrounds and some of the people they attract have a dark side not much reflected here. But the programme is highly atmospheric and hears from, and about, some fascinating characters. Goldfish were given as prizes as far back as 1908, but glass bowls were outlawed under pressure from the RSPCA. In a Pythonesque response, stalls would put a carrot in a bowl to resemble a goldfish while the real ones were kept in a tank.

Afternoon Play: Send My Roots Rain
Radio 4, 2.15pm

The *Afternoon Play* has been branching out in all directions of late. After years of the single play format it now runs to themed sequences, drama documentaries and monologues. This is a slot which has become home to some outstanding drama. Today's play is part of a series about cultural figures and the various ways in which they found space to be creative. Derek Jacobi, whose radio drama archive represents some of the finest performances in the medium, stars as Gerard Manley Hopkins, who retreated to an Irish monastery in his last years to continue his tortured debates with God. The poet's words are woven around a commentary by Norman White, Hopkins's biographer. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball 9.00 Kevin Greening 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00pm Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce. Chart hits 8.00 Steve Lamacq: The Evening Session 10.00 Digital Update 10.10 John Peel 12.00 The Breezeblock 2.00am Clive Warren 4.00 Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 Alan Freeman: Their Greatest Bits 8.00 Nigel Ogden 9.00 Goldfish and Candyfloss. With David Essex. See Choice 10.00 Whicker's New World. A new seven-part series focusing on Britons who have chosen to live and work in America (1/7) 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.00 Katrina Leskanich 3.00am Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast 9.00 Brian Hayes 12.00 The Midday News 1.00pm Ian Payne 4.00 Drive 7.00 News Extra 7.30 The Tuesday Match. Russell Fuller presents top football action 10.00 Late Night Live with Nick Robinson 1.00am Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast 9.00 Scott Chisholm & Sally James 12.00 Crime Fighters 1.00pm Anna Raeburn 4.00 The Sports Zone 7.00 The World of Formula 1 8.00 Cheating Hearts 10.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins

VIRGIN

6.30am Russ Williams 9.30 Mark Forrest 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Harriet Scott 6.45 Pete and Geoff 10.00 Gary Davies 1.00am Richard Allen 4.30 Phil Kennedy

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today 7.00 World News 7.15 Outlook 7.55 My Century 8.00 World News 8.05 World Business Report 8.15 Insight 8.30 On Screen 9.00 World News 9.05 Performance 9.20 Off the Shelf: Badland 9.35 Discovery 10.00 World News 10.05 The Moonstone 10.20 The U.K. Top Twenty 10.50 Sports Round-Up 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Britain Today 11.45 World Business Report 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30pm Omnibus 1.00 World News 1.05 Outlook 1.45 Sports Round-Up 2.00 Newshour 3.00 World News 3.05 Discovery 3.30 On Screen 4.00 World News 4.05 Sports Round-Up 4.15 Westway 4.30 Everywoman 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Insight 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Going South 6.45 Sports Round-Up 7.00 World News 7.15 Britain Today 7.30 Omnibus 8.00 World News 8.05 Discovery 8.30 Science Feedback 8.45 Off the Shelf: Badland 9.00 Newshour 10.00 World News 10.05 World Business Report 10.20 Britain Today 10.30 Meridian Live 11.00 World News 11.15 Sports Round-Up 11.30 Jazzmatazz 12.00 World News 12.05am Outlook 12.45 Insight 1.00 The World Today 1.30 Discovery 1.55 My Century 2.00 The World Today 2.30 On Screen 3.00 The World Today 3.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 4.20 Sports Round-Up 4.30 The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Soothing music and information updates 8.00 Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour and CD of the Week 12.00 Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones introduces listeners' favourite pieces of classical music 2.00pm Concerto. Dittersdorf (Sinfonia Concertante) 3.00 Jamie Crick. Includes information updates, Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance 6.30 Newsnight. Sport, finance and news updates, with John Brunning 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces classical sounds 9.00 Evening Concert. Von Sauer (Piano Concerto No 1 in E minor); Mendelssohn (Four pieces for String Quartet, Op 81); Huber (Symphony No 5 in F) 11.00 Mann at Night. Music and conversation through till the small hours with Alan Mann 2.00am Concerto. Dittersdorf (Sinfonia Concertante) (r) 3.00 Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Penny Gore with music and arts news, including Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 4 in G); Balakirev (Islamey)
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Scarlatti (Sonatas in D, Kk478; in D, Kk492); Mozart (String Quartet in D, K499); Dutilleux (Suite: Le loup); Chabrier (Trois valses romantiques); Sibelius (Symphony No 7)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Simon Rattle
11.00 Sound Stories: Five Music Critics Donald Macleod investigates the journalistic activities of Claude Debussy
12.00 Composer of the Week: Reger
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Louise Hopkins, cello, Carole Presland, piano. Faure (Cello Sonata No 1 in D minor, Op 109); Rachmaninov (Cello Sonata in G minor, Op 19)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Tadaaki Otaka and Mark Wigglesworth. With Tasmin Little, violin. Liadov (The Enchanted Lake); Stravinsky (Apollo); Tchaikovsky (Violin Concerto in D); Glazunov (Symphony No 7 in F)
4.00 Voices Iain Burnside presents a specially recorded recital given by the soprano Inger Dam-Jensen with the pianist Roger Vignoles (r)
4.45 Music Machine with Verity Sharp
5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty is joined by the tenor Mark Padmore to discuss the role of the tenor in Easter oratorios
7.30 Performance on 3 Chris de Souza introduces the last of four concerts given by the Borodin Quartet at St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. Prokofiev (String Quartet No 2, Op 92); Stravinsky (Three Pieces for string quartet) 8.05 Ernst Gombrich at 90 8.25 Borodin (String Quartet No 2 in D)
9.10 Postscript: Rereading Auden (2/5) (r)
9.30 Chopin (Scherzo in E, Op 54). Performed by Richard Goode, piano
9.50 Seven Last Words From the Cross James MacMillan's intensely powerful evocation of the great drama of the Passion in a concert performance given at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, as part of the 1997 Raising Sparks festival. BBC Singers, London Chamber Orchestra under James MacMillan
10.45 Night Waves Richard Coles talks to Salman Rushdie about fiction, love and rock 'n' roll
11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton presents the Putte Wickman Quartet featuring Ulf Wakenius from the recent Swedish Jazz Festival held in London
12.00 Composer of the Week: Schubert (r)
1.00am Through the Night 1.00 Music by Bach 2.25 Rachmaninov (Variations on a Theme of Corelli) 3.00 Ligeti (Lux aeterna) 3.10 Bartok (Violin Sonata No 2) 3.35 Brahms (Piano Quintet in F minor) 4.20 Respighi (Suite in G) 4.50 Abel (Symphony in E flat, Op 10 No 3) 5.05 Sweelinck (Psalms 122 and 42) 5.30 Mendelssohn (Symphony No 4 in A, Italian)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today Rural news presented by Charlotte Smith
6.00 Today Introduced by James Naughtie
8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament
9.00 Unreliable Evidence with Clive Anderson
9.30 Song Lines Alex Salmond follows the path of hymn *Amazing Grace* from Olney in Cambridgeshire to the American Deep South (2/5) (r)
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.46 (FM) Serial: Pilate Fiona Shaw reads the second extract from Ann Wroe's new book
10.00 Woman's Hour with Martha Kearney. Including part two of *High Days, Holy Days*
11.00 Nature Mark Carwardine travels from Tierra del Fuego through the Drake Passage to explore the natural mysteries of Antarctica (r)
11.30 Chambers Ruth joins a dating agency. With John Bird, James Fleet and Sarah Lancashire (4/4)
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours Topical consumer news and investigations, presented by Mark Whitaker and Trixie Rawlinson
1.00 The World at One
1.30 The Musical Side of the Family The South African childhood experienced by the Uys family — the satirist Pieter-Dirk, the concert pianist Tessa and their musician mother Helga Bassel (4/6)
2.00 The Archers Broadcast yesterday (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: Send My Roots Rain Starring Derek Jacobi. See Choice
3.00 The Exchange: 0870 010 0444 Peter White invites listeners' views on a topical issue
3.30 Rigby's Red Herrings Chef Alastair Little helps the food enthusiast Graeme Rigby to track down Bombay duck, in a series looking at preserved fish (1/4) (r)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates part 62 of the history of Britain (r)
4.00 A Good Read Sarah LeFanu's guests the children's writer Shirley Hughes and the poet Ken Smith discuss their favourite paperbacks
4.30 Shop Talk presented by Heather Payton
5.00 PM 6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 I'm Glad You Asked Me That New series. Offbeat guide to modern living, with Michael Bywater, Sean Meo and Philip Pope (1/6)
7.00 The Archers The latest from Ambridge
7.15 Front Row Arts programme, with Mark Lawson
7.45 High Days, Holy Days Actors including Charlotte Cornwell, Denys Hawthorne and Kathryn Hunt read works on an Easter theme by Barbara Castle, Tony Benn, Dickens and Lewis Carroll. Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* (r)
8.00 Face the Facts John Waite and his team follow up listeners' complaints
8.40 In Touch Peter White presents news for visually impaired people
9.00 Case Notes Special Graham Easton considers the interaction between art and health
9.30 Unreliable Evidence Broadcast earlier (r)
10.00 The World Tonight with Justin Webb
10.45 Book at Bedtime: My Mother's House Written by Colette and read by Janet Suzman (r)
11.00 News 11.05 Late Night on 4: Mad Man Blue by Tracy Aston. An unassuming man gets involved in a neighbourhood feud — but will he escape the nightmare unscathed? Roy Hudd stars (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Political update
11.30 (FM) Talking Pictures Brian Sibley presents film news
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Age of Austerity — The Spivs David Hughes reads his sketch of shortage-struck London
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Maxey, Jane Gregory and Barry O'Keefe



هكذا من الأصل

Cheaper than therapy, with tools thrown in

What is an angle-grinder, anyway? Am I the only person who hasn't a clue? What about a router? It was only quite a way into Channel 4's *Cutting Edge: DIWhy?* that I began to wonder if this was a programme not about home improvements, but about something altogether different. First it was Marjan Debevere — a young, blonde, Belgian former model now living in England, where she has developed a passion for building fitted cupboards — telling us breathily: "I must have a router. And an angle-grinder." Well, of course you must, Marjan.

Then Chris Cormack, who is back in Civvy Street after 17 years' service as a Grenadier Guard, took us aside after we'd just seen his wife, Karen, cooing appreciatively at his demolition of the bathroom wall, and confessed that he'd not seen her that thrilled since he'd done a turn on the staircase.

Am I missing something? Or have I just been watching too many *Carry On* films recently?

Cesca Eaton's film seemed to be going out of its way to avoid mockery of DIY-ers: there was no "DIY-ers From Hell" about it. She was trying to show us how DIY can enhance a person's self-esteem, give them a sense of achievement, of empowerment, even — who knows? — of existentialist engagement. It was tenderly made, elegantly filmed, crisply edited. But did it persuade you? I'm not sure it fully persuaded me.

The world is made up of DIY-ers and GAMI-ers, so called because they believe not in Doing-It-Yourself but in Getting-A-Man-In. We GAMI-ers (put your hands up the rest of you, there's nothing to be ashamed of: you have nothing to lose but your chainsaws) tend to think that the basic difference between a DIY-er and a professional bodger is that the DIY-er is a bit of an anorak when it comes to knowing the names of tools, what they can do, at what variable speed, and how often they need charging and oiling if they're to maintain a 42 grams-per-square-inch hammer induction ratio (fortnightly, since you ask).

The professional bodging builder/plumber/decorator, on the other hand, simply refers to everything that isn't actually a mug of tea as a "wossname".

REVIEW

Joe Joseph

He does this in the belief that, under some ancient English statute, builders are immune from prosecution for faulty workmanship if they never divulge to their client in proper English what parts they promised to install and which tools they said they'd use to install them ("Your wossname's gone. I can put in a new one, with an extra wossname attachment, using my wossname, for 240 quid and we'll, forget about the VAT"). They read this tip in the same builders' trade magazine which advertises low-slung trousers ("Builders! Say goodbye to snug-fitting-jeans misery with Builders Baggies, the denims guaranteed to expose five fat inches of cleft buttock — or your money back!").

Marjan sees DIY as "a therapy thing". After giving up modelling she needed to do something to "channel my energies". So she painted a wall orange. Then she did the kitchen. Then she tiled the bathroom walls and mosaiced the bathroom floor. You wonder if, even at £50-an-hour, a therapist wouldn't have worked out cheaper. Then Marjan built a deck in her garden.

It was a garden-type deck, but you'd be forgiven for wondering if she was going to show you a cruiser-type deck once you'd seen what the Sutton family have done in their back garden. The Suttons love Greece. They go there every summer. So they have turned their back garden into an authentic taverna, with checked tablecloths, ouzo, menus on the wall and a large cobalt-blue-and-blinding-white *trompe l'oeil* of a Greek landscape to remind them of their favourite holiday spot. You felt touched; but you also felt grateful that the Suttons live very, very far away from you.

You doubt that Robin Hanbury-Tenison would build a mini-rainforest in his backyard, much as he loves them. *The Lost Worlds of Mulu*, David Hickman's film for Channel 4's *To the Ends of the Earth*, followed the genial British explorer and founder of Survival International back to Borneo. He'd first visited it in 1977 as leader of a Royal Geographic Society expedition of 140 scientists.

In a tropical rainforest called Mulu, they discovered thousands of animals and plant species new to science. Two square kilometres of Mulu contained 23,000 different life forms: 30 million species of insect. More ant species could be found in one tree stump than in the whole of the British Isles. Nature is obviously telling us something. It's telling us to go back to London. Hanbury-Tenison's expedition did just that, but returned last year to see how Mulu was faring under the onslaught of loggers, but particularly to find out if a nomadic tribesman called Nyapun, with whom Hanbury-Tenison had forged a brotherly bond in 1977, was still alive.

He was. But his Penan tribe — the last of the rainforest nomads on Borneo — were no longer rainforest nomads. They had been ousted by the loggers. The reunion between Nyapun and Hanbury-Tenison was very moving, and Hickman cleverly blended a personal story of friendship with a battle cry against the destruction of the rainforests. But it has the air, of a work-in-progress as Hanbury-Tenison returns to London with innovative plans to help the Penan tribe to reclaim their heritage. You leave them all hoping that Hickman will make another film, showing us how successful Hanbury-Tenison has been.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (47856)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (83585)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (2068127)
9.45 Style Challenge (3797112)
10.10 The Vanessa Show (T) (7957566)
10.55 News (T) (3500653)
11.00 Change That (3510030)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (3597189)
11.55 News (T) (7475127)
12.00 Call My Bluff (54924)
12.30pm Wipeout Celebrity Specials (4041585)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (53185585)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (86672)
1.30 Regional News (59007160)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (35154818)
2.05 Ironside (r) (5368363)
2.55 Through the Keyhole (r) (T) (7112156)
3.25 Children's BBC: The Enchanted Lands (4225214)
3.35 Help! It's the Hair Bear Bunch (r) (T) (4911740) **3.55** Hububb (9289943) **4.10** Chipmunks Go to the Movies (5941214) **4.35** The Really Wild Show (3588363) **5.00** Newsround (4250189) **5.10** Grange Hill (9947276)
5.33 Rewind (T) (983127)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (388382)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (547)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (127)
7.00 Holiday Travel programme (T) (1672)
7.30 EastEnders (T) (951)
8.00 Animal Hospital (T) (7092)
8.30 CHOICE **SuperNatural** New series. Exploration of apparently paranormal behaviour in the natural world (T) (6127)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (9295)


Sharon awaits the outcome of the Parole Board hearing (9.30pm)

9.30 Jailbirds Having served her time, Julie looks forward to returning home (T) (92672)
10.00 Killer in the Family (T) (134943)
10.50 Billy Connolly's World Tour of Australia (r) (T) (361295)
11.30 The Word On the Street (429108)
11.45 Passover (431943)
12.05am Waiting for the Light (1990) FILM Drama set during the Cuban missile crisis. Starring Shirley MacLaine. Directed by Christopher Monger (360073)
1.40 Weather (1873290)
1.45 BBC News 24 (96790124)

WALES: **6.30pm-7.00 Wales Today** (T) (127) **9.30 Week In Week Out** (T) (92672) **10.00 Jailbirds** (T) (55653) **10.30 Killer In the Family** (467818) **11.20 Billy Connolly's World Tour of Australia** (r) (T) (149295) **12.00 The Word On the Street** (5794238) **12.15am Passover** (2615832) **12.35 FILM: Waiting for the Light** (518783) **2.15 News** (T) (9169219) **2.20-6.00 BBC News 24** (58160325)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Polka Dot Shorts (2754363) **7.10** The Silver Brumby (6493027) **7.30** Inch High Private Eye (3983672) **7.55** The Bots Master (8841108) **8.20** Buried Treasure (5537382) **8.40** Blue Peter (3300127) **9.10** Goober and the Ghost Chasers (5994629) **9.35** Student Bodies (1997130) **10.00** Teletubbies (47295) **10.30** FILM: Shipwreck! (59201837) **12.10pm** Birds with Tony Soper (5720818) **12.30** Working Lunch (70450)
1.00 Children's BBC: Oakie Doke (68404160)
1.10 The Leisure Hour (9467189)
2.10 Sporting Greats (56928160)
2.40 News (T) (3772450)
2.45 Westminster Political news (T) (4159924)
3.25 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (4209276)
3.30 The Village (r) (9956108)
3.55 Kaye (9964127)
4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (6643672)
4.55 Esther (T) (5628653)
5.30 Whose House? (276)
6.00 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air (r) (T) (248566)
6.25 Heartbreak High (T) (815363)
7.10 The O Zone (T) (262566)
7.30 CHOICE **Counterblast** New series. Insight into domestic violence against men. (T) (653)
8.00 House Detectives A glimpse at the history of individual houses (r) (T) (5634)
8.30 Your Money or Your Life Alvin Hall offers more money tips (T) (4769)
9.00 Steptoe and Son A game of scrabble leaves the duo with a taste for journalism (r) (T) (7837)


Daniel Liebeskind is an innovator of avant garde architecture (9.30pm)

9.30 CHOICE **Close Up** The life of celebrated Polish architect Daniel Liebeskind. (T) (703230)
10.20 Coming Clean: The Truth About Housework (T) (151127)
10.30 Newsnight including news summary at 11.00 (T) (316568)
11.15 Seinfeld George declares his love for his girlfriend (T) (462671)
11.35 Seinfeld Jerry is accused of conspiring against Bette Midler. Last in series (T) (829059)
11.55 Weather (397160)
12.00 Despatch Box (22615)
12.30am BBC Learning Zone: Open University: Free Body Diagrams (78306) **1.00** Diagrams (16783) **1.30** Sensing Intelligence (40238) **2.00** Exam Revision: GCSE Bitesize Revision (23401) **5.00** Business and Training (6261561) **5.45** Open University: The Census (4156412) **6.10** The Vernacular Tradition (2484325) **6.35** Tilings at the Alhambra (5561509)

HTV

5.30am ITV Morning News (50818)
6.00 GMTV (5222585)
9.25 Trisha (T) (8454214)
10.30 This Morning (T) (44076108)
12.15pm HTV News and Weather (T) (4557450)
12.30 ITV Lunchtime News; Weather (T) (4036653)
12.55 Shortland Street (9463363)
1.30 Home and Away (T) (35176030)
1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (7989914)
2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (5217522)
3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (4208547)
3.15 HTV News (T) (4207818)
3.20 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (4211011) **3.30** Rosie and Jim (9271924) **3.40** The Wombles (9251160) **3.55** Cow and Chicken (9274011) **4.10** Snap (6623818) **4.40** How 2 (6040063)
5.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (3276)
5.30 WALES: Night Owls (4/6) (T) (130)
5.30 Can You Keep a Secret? (T) (130)
5.58 HTV Weather (980030)
6.00 HTV News (T) (943)
6.26 HTV Crimestoppers (507856)
6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather (T) (295)
7.00 Emmerdale (T) (6740)
7.30 WALES: High Performance (3/6) (T) (479)
7.30 West Eye View (479)
8.00 The Bill Meadows phones in sick (T) (2011)
9.00 Peak Practice Dawn fears her breast cancer might return, and Joanna regrets her reaction to a patient's request for cosmetic surgery (T) (9547)


Marshall (Greg Wise) reaches a decision about Claire (10pm)

10.00 Wonderful You Heather falls for her film class lecturer Alan, and Joe frets that his parents' marriage is heading for the rocks, while Henry gets a call from a record company rep keen to discuss his demo (4/7) (T) (2634)
11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (812112)
11.20 HTV News and Weather (T) (926301)
11.30 Renegade (23473)
12.30am The Haunted Fishtank (65832)
1.00 Airwolf (r) (4313509)
1.55 Judge Judy (7694493)
2.20 Wish You Were Here? Amsterdam, Egypt, Jamaica and the Swiss Alps (r) (T) (9764412)
2.45 Dead Men's Tales (r) (66677)
3.15 Football Extra Football League highlights (r) (8699986)
4.10 Coach (41030122)
4.35 Soundtrax (33540948)
4.45 ITV Nightscreen (2772870)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.20-12.30pm Central News; Weather (7702818)
12.55 Home and Away (4044672)
1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4616566)
2.10-2.40 Heart of the Country (56955214)
3.15-3.20 Central News; Weather (4207818)
5.30 Shortland Street (130)
6.00-6.30 Central News at Six; Weather (943)
7.30-8.00 30 Minutes (479)
11.20-11.30 Central News; Weather (926301)
1.00-1.55am Highlander (4313509)
4.05 Central Jobfinder '99 (1338493)
5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (3842702)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.15pm Westcountry News (4557450)
12.27-12.30 Illuminations (7710837)
12.55-1.25 Westcountry Lunchtime Live; Weather (4044672)
1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4616566)
2.10-2.40 Home and Away (56955214)
3.15-3.20 Westcountry News; Weather (4207818)
4.58-5.00 Birthday People (7313769)
5.30 Our House (130)
6.00-6.30 Westcountry Live; Weather (943)
7.30-8.00 Stranger Than Fiction (479)
11.20-11.30 Westcountry News; Weather (926301)
11.30 Power Game (30905)
12.00-12.30 Campus Cops (19141)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (4557450) **5.30 Monkey Business** (1/7) (r) (130) **6.00-6.30 Meridian Tonight** (T) (943) **7.29 Meridian Weather** (610189) **7.30-8.00 The Plain** (2/4) (r) (T) (479) **11.20 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (926301) **11.30 Cyber Cafe** (30905) **12.00-12.30 Pier Pressure** (r) (19141) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (99528)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: **12.19pm Anglia Weather** (7714653) **12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (7702818) **5.30-6.00 About Anglia** (130) **6.00-6.30 Anglia News** (T) (943) **7.30-8.00 Out to Lunch with Brian Turner** (479) **11.19 Anglia Air Watch** (524092) **11.20 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (926301) **11.30 The Thoughts of Chairman Alf** (T) (30905) **12.00-12.30 Short Story Cinema** (r) (19141)

S4C

Starts: **6.00am Sesame Street** (r) (88337160) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (67397189) **9.00 FILM: Words and Music** (T) (70807635) **11.15 Lost Animals** (T) (15474479) **11.30 Powerhouse** (T) (68749769) **12.00 Bewitched** (T) (97528837) **12.30pm Sesame Street** (T) (26346382) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (67390276) **1.30 The Three Stooges** (r) (T) (37963566) **1.50 FILM: Broken Arrow** (T) (78482769) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (67616160) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (67635295) **4.30 Ricki Lake** (T) (67631479) **5.00 Planed Plant** (90616905) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (67655059) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (93964092) **6.10 Heno** (T) (86454295) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (90636769) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (67632108) **8.00 Y Sioe Gelf** (T) (90612189) **8.30 Pengelli** (T) (90624924) **9.00 Tair Chwaer** (r) (T) (37876030) **10.00 Brookside** (T) (72181382) **10.35 Queer as Folk** (6/8) (T) (52709276) **11.15 The 11 O'Clock Show** (28701295) **11.50 Smack the Pony** (T) (92701059) **12.20am The Siege of Scotland Yard** (T) (30364696) **1.20 Fusion** (T) (22953870) **1.50 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

5.35am The Pink Panther (7353905)
6.00 Sesame Street (r) (30566)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (76295)
9.00 Words and Music (1948) FILM Musical, starring Mickey Rooney. Directed by Norman Taurog (T) (91835108)
11.15 Lost Animals (3641943)
11.30 Powerhouse (T) (3498)
12.00 Sesame Street (T) (47634)
12.30pm Bewitched (r) (T) (72818)
1.00 Pet Rescue The work of RSPCA centres (r) (T) (79382)
1.30 The Student Prince (1954) FILM Lavish version of Romberg's operetta, starring Edmund Purdom as a pompous prince who falls in love on a trip to Heidelberg. Directed by Richard Thorpe (T) (91214)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (301)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (108)
4.30 Countdown (T) (3505030)
4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (5613721)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (672)
6.00 King of the Hill (r) (T) (585)
6.30 Home Improvement (T) (582547)
6.55 Planet Pop (r) (367450)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (596011)
7.55 Dovetails The youngest elected member of the Northern Ireland assembly describes how has has forsaken work in a shoe shop for the lofty heights of Stormont (T) (410301)
8.00 Brookside (T) (3030)
8.30 Classic British Cars The style war between Vauxhall and Ford (6/8) (T) (9837)


Sir Paul Condon has to instigate changes within the force (9pm)

9.00 The Siege of Scotland Yard Insight into media pressure on Sir Paul Condon following the publication of the Macpherson report into the Lawrence Inquiry, which highlighted "institutionalised racism" within the force. Should the Commissioner listen to his critics and resign now, or stay on until his term of office ends in January, when he had already announced his intention to stand down (T) (7189)
10.00 Father Ted Jack is put in a home (r) (T) (48363)
10.30 CHOICE **Queer as Folk** Stuart and Marie visit their parents and Vince introduces Cameron to his mum (6/8) (T) (716504)
11.10 The 11 O'Clock Show Satirical comedy (T) (237924)
11.45 Fusion (T) (655295)
12.15am Witness (4588412)
1.10 A-Z of Wagner The music, personality and politics of Richard Wagner, one of the 20th century's most controversial composers (r) (9273054)
2.20 Tannhauser (r) (T) (22290257)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport Current events (8854130)
7.00 WideWorld Part eight. Architect Frank Lloyd Wright (r) (T) (8496943)
7.30 Milkshake! (2928769)
7.35 Dappledown Farm (r); 5 News Update (4907498)
8.00 Alvin and the Chipmunks (r) (2113721)
8.30 Witchworld, 5 News Update (2112092)
9.00 Instant Gardens (7/14) (r) (T) (2136672)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (r) (7596629)
10.20 Sunset Beach Gregory persuades Francesca to seduce AJ (T) (3969382)
11.10 Leeza (5410491)
12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (2123108)
12.30pm Family Affairs Yasmin's big day ends in tatters (r) (T); 5 News Update (1594030)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Ridge proposes to Brooke (T) (8495214)
1.30 The Roseanne Show Entertainment and chat with the outrageous comedienne; 5 News Update (1593301)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (9472030)
2.30 Good Afternoon Lifestyle magazine, incorporating real-life soap Liverpool Mums, Selling the Family Silver with Eric Knowles, and word game Cryptogram; 5 News Update (1087818)
3.30 Home Fires Burning (1989) FILM Drama, starring Barnard Hughes as an aging newspaper editor whose life is thrown into turmoil by his son's return from the Second World War. Directed by Glenn Jordan (T) (7241635)
5.20 5 News (68098289)
5.30 100 Per Cent (2726498)
6.00 5 News Round-up of the day's stories (T) (2716011)
6.30 Family Affairs Pam discovers what her big case is about (T) (2707363)
7.00 Knight Rider Michael infiltrates a highly organised gang of thieves planning to rob a bullion truck (r) (9450818)
7.30 Nature of Oz Moves to control Australia's foxes, which were introduced to the Outback deliberately, but now pose a serious threat to other wildlife (T) (2703547)
8.00 Crime Report Hard-hitting reports on the latest UK crime cases, presented by John Taylor (9469566)
8.30 The Best of What's the Story? The series draws to a close with updates on previous reports (9471301)
9.00 Dogboys (TVM 1998) FILM A policeman goes undercover in a tough prison to investigate allegations of corruption, but instead finds himself sucked into his crooked colleagues' way of life — can a jailed marine help him out? Drama, starring Bryan Brown, Dean Cain and Tia Carrere. Directed by Ken Russell (T); 5 News Update (81571585)
10.50 Two Deciding to fight fire with fire, Gus poses as Booth and visits his foster parents, only to discover they're involved in an elaborate kidnapping scheme (4327837)
11.45 Live and Dangerous AMA Supercross action (38161108)
3.45am Asian Soccer Football action (8692948)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (8188677)

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● For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (29301) **7.30** Grimmy (15108) **8.00** Earthworm Jim (16617) **8.30** Godzilla (86159) **9.00** Pokemon (83450) **9.30** The Simpsons (27382) **10.00** Shadow Raiders (61653) **10.30** Xena: Warrior Princess (63450) **11.30** Legend of the Hidden City (35837) **12.00** Tarzan (17906) **1.00pm** Mad About You (29672) **1.30** Jeopardy (37769) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (82382) **3.00** Jenny Jones (39653) **4.00** Pokemon (3160) **4.30** Shadow Raiders (2672) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (6905) **6.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (8027) **6.30** Dream Team (1189) **7.00** The Simpsons (7634) **7.30** The Simpsons (3301) **8.00** Rescue Medics (6382) **8.30** Coppers (2189) **9.00** World's Wildest Police Videos (56818) **10.00** Bloody Foreigners! (59905) **11.00** Dream Team (26189) **11.30** Star Trek: Voyager (74634) **12.30am** Law and Order (67412) **1.30** Long Play (8655685)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51) **How to be a Player (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **Gattaca (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) **Jackie Brown (1997)** **Flubber (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 56) **Kiss the Girls (1998)**

SKY PREMIER

6.00am The Lies He Told (1996) (68058) **8.00 Forever Love (1998)** (64909363) **9.50 Selena (1997)** (51061858) **12.00** The Directors: The Films of Arthur Hiller (33943) **1.00pm** Hollywood Buzz (19363) **2.00 The Lies He Told (1996)** (71127) **4.00 Forever Love (1998)** (74375837) **5.50 Selena (1997)** (50934295) **8.00 Air Force One (1997)** (63108) **10.00 Night Falls on Manhattan (1997)** (21634) **12.00 Backdraft (1991)** (92971306) **2.20am The People vs Larry Flynt (1996)** (13651219)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.25am The Kid (1997) (64954672) **7.00 Torn Between Two Lovers (TVM 1979)** (10653) **9.00 Invasion of Astro Monster (1967)** (93498) **11.00 The Last Best Year (TVM 1990)** (53092) **1.00 Torn Between Two Lovers (1979)** (97214) **3.00 Invasion of Astro Monster (1967)** (78450) **5.00 The Last Best Year (TVM 1990)** (88547) **7.00 Wing and a Prayer (TVM 1996)** (49455) **9.00 Carriers (1997)** (64837) **11.00 Buried Alive II (1997)** (689634) **12.35am Broken Silence (1997)** (2253219) **2.05 Dead Presidents (1995)** (393236) **4.05 Terror of Mechagodzilla (1975)** (8715344)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Five Card Stud (1968) (7596011) **6.00 Kid Galahad (1962)** (2989160) **8.00 Hellfighters (1968)** (2901905) **10.00 Blume in Love (1973)** (2157455) **11.55 The French Connection (1971)** (3998943) **1.40am The Seven-Ups (1973)** (4539815) **3.25 The Two-Headed Spy (1958)** (33618848)

FILMFOUR

6.00pm A Simple Twist of Fate (1994) (27298479) **7.45** Great Moments in Science: Falling Cats (6208450) **9.00 The Quick and the Dead (1995)** (87624108) **9.45** Flight of the Swan (8575568) **10.00 Malcolm X (1992)** (6840030) **1.20am Trust (1990)** (6858621) **3.00 Passion Fish (1992)** (1170073) **6.00** Close

TNT

9.00pm Never So Few (1959) (63776092) **11.30 Mister Buddwing (1966)** (49361092) **1.30am Our Mother's House (1967)** (65401967) **3.30 Vengeance Valley (1951)** (82954899) Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre **7.15** V-Max **7.45** Total Sport **8.15** You're On Sky Sports! **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style **10.00** Wrestling **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style **12.30pm** V-Max **1.00** League Review **2.00** Bowls **4.00** Wrestling **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** Inside Scottish Football **7.30** Fastrax **8.00** Live Greyhound Racing **10.00** Sports Centre **10.15** You're On Sky Sports! **11.00** Inside Scottish Football **12.00** Sports Centre **12.15am** You're On Sky Sports! **1.00** Snooker **3.00** Sports Centre

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style **7.30** Sports Centre **7.45** Racing News **8.15** Moto-Plus **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** Fish TV **10.00** Football League Review **11.00** International Bowls **1.00** Max Power **2.00** Snow Show **2.30** Total Sport **3.00** Live International Cricket **10.00** Women's Golf **12.00** International Football **2.00am** Sports Centre **2.15** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00am Powerboat and Jetsport World **12.30pm** Total Sport **1.00** Fish TV **2.00** Golden Age of Motor Racing **2.30** Wonderful World of Golf **3.30** Fastrax **4.00** Sports Unlimited **5.00** Rebel Sports **5.30** Snooker **7.30** Live International Football **9.30** Fastrax **10.00** Tales from the Premiership **10.30** Boxing Superbouts **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Rally **9.00** Women's Curling **11.00** Football **12.00** Trial Biking **12.30pm** Rally **1.00** Triathlon **2.00** Football **4.00** Car On Ice **4.30** Tractor Pulling **5.30** Strongman **6.30** Dancing **7.50** Live Figure Skating **9.00** Live Boxing **11.00** US Golf **12.00** Rally

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.30** The House of Eliott **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Bugs **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** Ever Decreasing Circles **7.40** Last of the Summer Wine **8.20** The Brittas Empire **9.00** Red Dwarf **9.40** Crime Traveller **10.45** Bugs **11.50** The Bill **12.55am** Between the Lines **1.50** Blackadder Goes Forth **2.25** The Man from Auntie **3.00** Shopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Within These Walls **7.00** Holding the Fort **7.30** The Odd Couple **8.00** Families **8.30** Mind Your Language **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **11.00** The Gentle Touch **12.00** Classic Coronation Street **12.30pm** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** Mind Your Language **1.30** Me and My Girl **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Professionals **5.00** Hart to Hart **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** The Professionals **8.00** The Benny Hill Show **9.00** The Sweeney **10.00** Hale and Pace **10.30** Wheeltappers and Shunters' Social Club


Live Greyhound racing from Wimbledon, with the Grand National attracting £7,500 in prize money (Sky Sports 1, 8pm)

CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** My Two Wives **6.30** Our House **7.00** Shine On Harvey Moon **8.00** Chancer **9.00** The Upper Hand **9.30** Flying Start **10.00** Peak Practice **11.00** Hill Street Blues **12.00** My Two Wives **12.30am** Gridlock **1.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Gummi Bears **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Tale Spin **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.25** Classic Toons **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa **9.00** Art Attack **9.35** Doug **10.00** Recess **10.15** Pepper Ann **10.30** Ned's Newt **11.00** Smart Guy **11.30** Teen Angel **12.00** Boy Meets World **12.30pm** Brotherly Love **1.00** Dinosaurs **1.30** Amazing Animals **1.55** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.10** Bite Size **2.20** Bear in the Big Blue House **2.45** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00** Honey, We Shrunk Ourselves (1997) **8.30** Honey I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **9.15** Dinosaurs **10.00** Home Improvement **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Touched by an Angel **11.50** Classic Toons **12.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Masked Rider **6.30** Beetleborgs Metallix **6.55** Power Rangers Turbo **7.20** Power Rangers Turbo **7.45** Silver Surfer **8.10** Mortal Kombat **8.35** Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book **9.00** Goosebumps **9.25** Eerie, Indiana: The Other Dimension **9.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.00** Goosebumps **10.25** Mad Jack the Pirate **10.40** The Secret Files of the Spy Dogs **10.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **11.00** Goosebumps **11.25** Dennis and Gnasher **11.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **12.00** Goosebumps **12.25pm** The Incredible Hulk **12.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **1.00** Goosebumps **1.25** Fantastic Four **1.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **2.00** Goosebumps **2.25** X-Men **2.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **3.00** Goosebumps **3.30** X-Press **3.35** Spiderman **4.00** Goosebumps **4.25** Hero Turtles: The Next Mutation **5.00** Dennis and Gnasher **5.30** Ace Ventura **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** Eek!Stravaganza **6.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Brothers Flub **7.00** Aaahh! Real Monsters **8.00** Catdog **9.00** Rugrats **10.00** The Wild Thornberrys **11.00** Sabrina **12.00** [illegible] **1.00pm** Renford Rejects **2.00** Hey Arnold! **3.00 Rugrats** **4.30** Sister Sister **5.00** Kenan and Kel

TROUBLE

7.00am USA High **8.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **9.00** Hang Time **9.30** Hang Time **10.00** Sweet Valley High **10.30** Sweet Valley High **11.00** Saved By the Bell: The College Years **11.30** Saved By the Bell: The College Years **12.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **12.30pm** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **1.00** Saved by the Bell: Hawaiian Style **3.00** City Guys **3.30** City Guys **4.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **4.30** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **5.00** In the House **5.30** In the House **6.00** Ready or Not **6.30** Rush **6.45** Bangs **7.00** USA High **7.30** USA High

BRAVO

8.00pm Martial Law **9.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **9.30** Cops **10.00** The Late Lounge **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00 FILM: The Fly II (1989)** **1.00am** Erotic Confessions **1.30** The Late Lounge **2.00** Martial Law **3.00 FILM: Manhunter (1986)** **5.20** Short **5.30** Cops **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Clueless **7.30** Grace Under Fire **8.00** Ellen **8.30** Spin City **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line is it Anyway? **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show **12.00** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00am** Tau **1.30** Frontline **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Tibs and Fibs **3.00** Nightsland **3.30** Abbott and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **12.00** The Twilight Zone **12.30pm** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Time Trax **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** V **9.00** Twin Peaks **10.00 FILM: Xtro III: Watch the Skies (1995)** **12.00** New Alfred Hitchcock **12.30am** New Alfred Hitchcock **1.00 FILM: Amityville II: The Possession (1982)** **3.00** Dark Shadows **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Today's Gourmet **6.30** Yan Can Cook: The Best of Asia **7.00** Homemaker **7.30** Period Rooms **8.00** Wedding Story **8.30** A Baby Story **9.00** Simply Painting **9.30** The Great Gardening Plot **10.00** Instant Gardens **10.30** Cookabout with Greg and Max **11.00** The Dicemen **11.25** The Home and Leisure House **11.30** Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **12.00** Our House Down Under **12.30pm** Antiques Trail **1.00** Our House **1.30** Home Savvy **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Charlie West Fishing

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** A River Somewhere **5.00** Searching for Lost Worlds: Dragon Hunters **6.00** Wildlife SOS **6.30** Born Wild **7.30** Futureworld **8.00** Great Escapes **8.30** The Death Zone **9.00** Trailblazers **10.00** Betty's Voyage **11.00** Hitler **12.00** Betty's Voyage **1.00am** Searching for Lost Worlds: Dragon Hunters **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00am The New Adventures of Black Beauty **12.30pm** Hollywood Safari **1.30** Deadly Australians **2.00** Breed All About It: Great Danes **2.30** Human/Nature **3.30** Harry's Practice **4.00** Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures **4.30** Animal Doctor **5.00** Pet Rescue **5.30** Deadly Australians **6.00** The New Adventures of Black Beauty **6.30** Lassie **7.00** Rediscovery of the World **8.00** Animal Doctor **8.30** Totally Australia **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** The Last Paradises **10.30** Animal Detectives **11.00** All-Bird TV **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Giants of Jasper **7.30** Okavango Diary **8.00** Close Up On Wildlife **9.00** Natural Born Killers **10.00** Little Creatures Who Run the World **11.00** Coming of Age with Elephants **12.00** The Shark Files

HISTORY

4.00pm Vimy, Rum and Druids **5.00** The Tugboats **6.00** Private Lives of the Emperors **7.00** The Story of the Gun

CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **10.00** The Green Gourmet **10.30** Nancy Lam **11.00** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.30** Ideal Home Cooks **12.00** Food Network Daily **12.30pm** Loyd's Louisiana **1.00** Coxon's Kitchen College **1.30** Thoroughly Modern Britch **2.00** Simply Baking **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Nordic Nosh **3.30** Ideal Home Cooks **4.00** Tessa's Tastebuds **4.30** Lunch with Ed Baines **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny and Crew **6.20** 10 plus 2 **6.40** Greedysaurus and the Gang **6.45** Philbert the Frog **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts **7.00** Practical Parenting **7.05** Professor Bubble **7.30** Caillou **7.35** Bug Alert **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** Bababoos **8.30** Tiny Tales **8.35** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Special Babies **9.30** The Roseanne Show **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Through the Keyhole **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Beyond Belief **1.40** Maury Povich **2.30** Special Babies **3.00** The Living Room **3.50** Michael Cole **4.40** Through the Keyhole **5.10** The Heat Is On **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** LA Law **9.00 FILM: Murder on the Iditarod Trail** **11.00** The Spicy Files

ZEE TV

5.00am Punjabi Folk Songs **5.30** Old is Gold **6.00** Aap Ki Farmaish **6.30** Uche Uthap Show **7.00** Faith: Hindu **7.30** Daily News **8.00** Out and About **8.30** Tara **9.00** Himalaya's Hasratein **10.00** Stage Plays **11.00** Khana Khazana **11.30** Parampara **12.00 FILM: Mitti Wattana Di** **3.00pm** Bangla TV: Nokhatrer Rat **3.30** Cine Magic **4.00** Akbar Birbal **4.30** Zee Top 10 **5.30** Aashirwad **6.00** 1-10 **6.30** Hum Tum Rum **7.00** Jee Sahab **7.30** Chalo Cinema **8.00** News **8.30** Teacher **9.00** Do Aur Do Paanch **9.30** Zanjeeren **10.00** Hadd Kar Di **10.30** Mahabharat **11.30** Yaadon Ke Rang **12.00** News **12.30am** Business Week **1.00** Bangla TV **1.30** Parmaran **2.00 FILM: Phool Mere Gulshan Ka** **4.30** Lolly-Pop

GOLF 44
Duval reaches No 1 on day of family celebration

SPORT

CRICKET 46
Fast bowlers offer West Indies hope in Barbados



Fixture build-up worsening

Uefa grapples with growing Balkans crisis

By Kevin McCarra

INTERNATIONAL fixtures are never to be numbered among the casualties when the carnage of war is reckoned, but Nato action in Serbia may have its influence on the future of football. On Saturday, three European championship qualifying matches had to be postponed because of events in the Balkans and another three have been wiped from the programme tomorrow.

The rescheduling of these games will only exacerbate the testy relationship between clubs and the countries to which they must lend their precious and highly-paid players. The calendar had seemed too cramped already and now a great deal more football will have to be accommodated next season. Uefa, the European governing body, needs to act swiftly to maintain control.

Yugoslavia, who are in the same group as Ireland, are supposed to play a further six matches, but their game against Macedonia tomorrow was one of those called off and, in reality, they may not be able to take the field again in a group eight schedule that should end on October 10. Uefa said yesterday that it had no plans at present to remove them from the tournament.

Croatia, also in group eight, will have similar difficulty in fulfilling their three outstanding home matches. The first of them, against Malta tomorrow, has already been postponed. Bosnia-Herzegovina, with air-space closed to commercial flights in their own country, could not fly to Glasgow to face Scotland last weekend. Arrangements could be made for future away games, but there are bound to be misgivings among opponents over any trip to Sarajevo.

Disruption has spread to group two, where, on the same night, Slovenia's match against Albania will not now go ahead. Before long, Uefa may have to enforce a widespread rescheduling of sensitive fixtures on neutral territory. The rearrangments will themselves increase the strain on clubs across the Continent next season. Even before the disruption, play-offs in November between eight of the runners-up already had to be tolerated. Those games will wriggle into a fixture list that is more packed than ever.

Amid all the pieties uttered about the unreasonable demands made of footballers, administrators and club chairmen have agreed an even greater workload for them. The reconstruction of the programme is to see an expansion of the Uefa Cup and the European Cup. Should Manchester United win the latter tournament this year, they will do so after playing 13 matches. Next season, the players who, on weary legs, go up to receive the trophy may have participated in as many as 23 games.

For English sides, other duties include 38 FA Carling Premiership fixtures as well as Worthington Cup and FA Cup assignments. In the circumstances, call-ups for Scotland's game against Bosnia-Herzegovina, tentatively rescheduled for August 18, will provoke ill-feeling among clubs in the Premiership and the Scottish Premier League. The situation may be tolerable at present, but it could worsen and mutiny is not far away. It seems inevitable that clubs, with fortunes at stake, will eventually rebel and test the resolve of Fifa, the world governing body, by refusing to release players.



Brown: call for limit

The confrontation nearly happened earlier this season. In January, the Confederations Cup, an obscure competition that is esteemed by Fifa, was due to take place in Mexico. With France expected to participate, it seemed that clubs across Europe, including Arsenal and Chelsea, would be ransacked for players at a crucial stage in the season. It was anticipated that many clubs were on the verge of declining to send their stars.

The Confederations Cup was duly postponed, but it is now intended to take place in late July and, although France are no longer participating, a dispute of some sort has been postponed rather than resolved. Reform of the entire programme will be required.

Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, acknowleded as much when he called for qualifying groups to be limited to four nations, with only the winners advancing to the European championship finals. His immediate concerns, however, surround the match against the Czech Republic at Celtic Park tomorrow. The visitors, with one match more played, lead Scotland by five points in group nine.

Jonathan Gould, a reserve goalkeeper, had to leave the Scotland squad for personal reasons yesterday, but it is hoped that he might be able to return. Matt Elliott, the centre half, hurt his back in training and his fitness is in doubt.

All the straining is directed, however, towards qualification for a tournament that may cause supporters less distress than did the 1998 World Cup. Ticket allocations provoked uproar last year, but the organisers of Euro 2000, which is to be staged in Holland and Belgium, have promised a more equitable distribution to fans from other countries.

Keegan clamour, page 44



Sharif, the Cambridge University coxswain, weighs in yesterday, watched by the rival Oxford University crew. Photograph: Marc Aspland

History weighs heavily on Oxford

By Mike Rosewell
Rowing Correspondent

THOSE looking for a definitive weight pointer to the 145th Boat Race on Saturday were disappointed at the weigh-in yesterday. Oxford University averaged 14st 10lb per man, with Cambridge University, attempting to achieve a record seventh successive victory, just half a pound per man lighter. They were the third-heaviest crews ever produced by both camps.

Records show the heaviest crew usually emerges victorious, but Oxford may be concerned that five of the past seven victories have gone to the lighter team. Nothing was revealed on the water either, since the coaches, Sean Bowden, of Oxford, and Robin Williams, of Cambridge, contented themselves with two quiet paddles to acclimatise the crews. Hedging bets seemed to be the order of the day and even William Hill, the bookmaker, quoted 5-6 on both crews.

Height goes Cambridge's way again, their average of 6ft 6in establishing a new record, although the Oxford average of 6ft 3in hardly makes them stumpy. Josh West, Cambridge's American fourman, creates an individual record at 6ft 9in, closely followed by Kieran West, his British crewmate, at 6ft 8in.

The weight battle of the coxswains was won by Cambridge, Vian Sharif, the tenth woman to steer in the Boat Race, scaling 6st 10lb to Neil O'Donnell's 7st 13lb, Sharif's weight making her the lightest cox since 1986.

Oxford have the heaviest rower, Toby Ayer, of the United States, at 16st ½lb, the ninth-heaviest rower to perform in the contest. Ayer could also come high in the perseverance stakes after two years of just missing a Blue and rowing in Isis, the reserve boat. He thought about calling it a day, but said: "It is hard to walk away from something when you didn't get what you wanted."

Toby Wallace, a 1998 Cambridge Blue, fills the bow seat this year, at 15st 2lb the heaviest by far to do so.

The cosmopolitan make-up of the 1999 crews also matches the 1995 record of ten foreign rowers, six of whom are in the Oxford boat. Colin Von Ettingshausen, of Oxford, and Tim Wooge, of Cambridge, the two German rowers, also make history by both stroking their crews. Von Ettingshausen is a world champion and won a silver medal at the Barcelona Olympic Games behind Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, while Wooge has competed for Germany at under-23 level.

Statistics give few clues to a possible winner and pre-race performances since Christmas have also been inconclusive. Oxford had an easy win over Tideway Scullers, which Cambridge matched with a comfortable victory over London on the same day. Subsequently, Oxford beat a Queen's Tower crew packed with British internationals, but only narrowly, while Cambridge had an easier passage over an Austrian crew. Queen's Tower won the 406 crew Head of the River last Saturday when the Austrians came sixth, 20sec slower.

Before Christmas, four of the Cambridge crew — Graham Smith, Wooge, Brad Crombie and West — caused surprise by finishing 1sec behind Great Britain's world champion crew in the Fours Head. However, Oxford had five crews finishing in the top 56 placings compared to one from Cambridge.

The pundits will be watching closely this week for any clues as to which crew might be the first recipients of the Aberdeen Asset Management trophy, a silver quaich big enough to give eight oarsmen and a cox plenty of chance to celebrate. Getting their hands on it for the first year will be the most difficult task.

The 1999 Boat Race will be rowed on April 3 (3.30) and covered live on BBC1
WEBSITE: www.regatta.rowing.org.uk/BoatRace/br-1999race.html
Today's outings: Oxford 11.30am and 4pm; Cambridge 12 noon and 4.30pm

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY	OXFORD UNIVERSITY
BOW: *J Wallace Jesus College, 22, 6ft 7in, 15st 2lb	BOW: *C P A Humphreys (President), Oriel College, 22, 6ft 3½in, 13st 1½lb
No 2: T A Stallard Jesus College, 20, 6ft 3¾in, 13st 8½lb	No 2: *L H K Nilsson (Swe), Hertford College, 30, 6ft 3¼in, 14st 2lb
No 3: *R E B Crombie (President, Can), Peterhouse College, 28, 6ft 6in, 14st 12lb	No 3: D R Snow, Balliol College, 20, 6ft 6in, 15st 12lb
No 4: A J West (US), Caius College, 22, 6ft 9in, 15st 2½lb	No 4: T H Ayer (US), Worcester College, 24, 6ft 5in, 16st
No 5: D O M Ellis (US), Trinity College, 23, 6ft 5in, 14st 4lb	No 5: M Crotty (USA), Keble College, 23, 6ft 5in, 14st 10lb
No 6: K M West, Christ's College, 21, 6ft 8in, 14st 13lb	No 6: M A L Crooks (Can), St Annie's College), 22, 6ft 2in, 14st 4lb
No 7: *G D C R Smith, St Edmund's College, 23, 6ft 3¾in, 14st 2½lb	No 7: *A J R Lindsay, Brasenose College, 22, 6ft 1in, 14st 4lb
STROKE: T Wooge (Ger), Magdalene College, 26, 6ft 7¾in, 15st 2lb	STROKE: C von Ettingshausen (Ger), Keble College, 27, 6ft 4in, 15st 2lb
COX: V Sharif, Clare College, 19, 5ft, 6st 10½lb	COX: N J O'Donnell (US), Keble College, 23, 5ft 9in, 7st 13lb

GB unless stated — *denotes Blue

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1678

ACROSS
1 Pause doubtfully (8)
5 Norway capital (4)
9 — of Windsor, *Shak.* (3,5,5)
10 Brave man (4)
11 Thin: small (chance) (7)
13 Officer's side-arm (6)
15 Feeble-minded: easy (6)
18 Of little depth (7)
20 Young attendant (4)
23 The first and the last (5,3,5)
24 Scream (4)
25 Capital of Finland (8)

DOWN
1 Great dislike (4)
2 Riddle (5)
3 Rapid-reiteration-of-note effect *(mus.)* (7)
4 Spotted-breast bird (6)
6 Laid money aside (for) (5,2)
7 One watching, monitoring (8)
8 Cutely precious (4)
12 Repudiation of belief (8)
14 Surgeon's knife (7)
16 Wicked, godless (7)
17 Brief pain (6)
19 Clay/sand soil (4)
21 Pick up (scraps) (5)
22 H H Munro penname (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1677
ACROSS: 1 Livingstone 8 Simon 9 Glamour 10 Trim 11 Gargoyle 13 Bleary 14 Writhe 17 Samphire 19 Limp 22 Outsize 23 Usurp 24 Homo Sapiens
DOWN: 1 Liszt 2 Vampire 3 Non-U 4 Signal 5 Orangery 6 Ebony 7 Greece 12 Archaism 13 Bestow 15 Tribute 16 Greens 18 Match 20 Pepys 21 Pump

Osborne reaches finishing line

Alan Lee, racing correspondent, on the retirement of a charismatic jockey who had one fall too many

When the fires of ambition and adrenalin are doused, it is time for jump jockeys to call time. Theirs is no life to pursue with less than total commitment and Jamie Osborne had recognised the warning signs. News of his immediate retirement, in order to train on the Flat, was greeted with sadness and surprise yesterday, but his own words left no room to doubt the wisdom of his decision.

"I haven't been enjoying the riding as much as I used to do," Osborne, 31, said. "There were lots of lows. I kept falling off, banging my head. I had just had enough of it. I've no regrets, but I will not be looking back. I certainly won't miss going to Ludlow on a Thursday."

It was a fortnight ago, on Champion Hurdle day, that Osborne decided it was time to move on. He spent that evening in the casualty unit of Cheltenham General Hospital, a dispiriting and too familiar experience for him of late. His right wrist had been injured in a fall from Kadou Nonantais and it was to be his final ride, his decisive tumble.

By delicious irony, Jenny Pitman had announced her retirement from training that day. Two of the most charismatic personalities in the racing village of Lambourn, their relationship reached a nadir in the weighing-room at Ayr one day when, legend has it, the redoubtable Mrs P. expressed her dissatisfaction with Osborne's riding against one of her horses with a right hook.

Osborne was amused to discount any theory that their retirements were linked, but he was more earnest in rejecting the notion that his long ordeal as a suspect in the police inquiry into doping and race-fixing influenced him. He was cleared last November, ten months after being arrested, but he said: "All that stuff had nothing to do with my decision."

At the suggestion of Michael Caulfield, of the Jockeys' Association, Osborne took the microphone at the annual "Lesters" awards dinner on Sunday night and broke the news direct to his colleagues.

Richard Dunwoody reacted with shock. "He is too young to retire," he said, but then Dunwoody, at 35, remains driven by new incentives and in love with the life. For Osborne, the affair had gone cold.

A Yorkshireman who rode in point-to-points while still at school, he came to prominence when moving south to ride for Nicky Henderson. Eleven years ago, he accepted a retainer with Oliver Sherwood, Henderson's near-neighbour, and theirs has been one of the most enduring partnerships of jump racing.

Of the man who rode memorable winners on such stable stars as Arctic Call and Large Action, Sherwood said: "Jamie was like another brother to me. He had a talent for communicating with owners and was a great stable jockey, but I am not surprised he is going. He has had a basinful of falls."

Osborne's best season was 1996-97, when he finished second in the jockeys' table with 131 winners, but his greatest achievement was riding three winners in a day at the Cheltenham Festival of 1992. He remained in heavy demand by trainers until suffering a badly broken wrist, again at Cheltenham, in November, 1997.

His emotional comeback win on Coome Hill at Ascot last October hinted at fresh beginnings, but Osborne soon knew that things were not the same. Intelligent and loquacious, Osborne could doubtless have made a future in the media, but, instead, will search for a base to train Flat horses.

"I have tried to stop myself, but I know it is what I want to do," he said. "Jumpers are not on the agenda, so I will be buying yearlings in the autumn and looking to have runners this time next year."

Osborne: dispirited

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

FIRST WINNER: Fair Bavard at Southwell on March 29, 1986

BIG-RACE WINS:

1990: Arctic Call (Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup)

1992: Remittance Man (Champion Chase), Nomadic Way (Stayers' Hurdle), Young Pokey (Arkle Chase)

1993: Travado (Arkle Chase)

1994: Nakir (Arkle Chase)

1996: Flashing Steel (Irish Grand National)

1996: Collier Bay (AIG Europe Champion Hurdle), Coome Hill (Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup)

1997: Karshi (Bonusprint Stayers' Hurdle), Shadow Leader (Citroën Supreme Novices' Hurdle)

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